



WILLIAM REES-MOGG

How to be a trillionaire

The big money moves east, page 14



MATTHEW PARRIS

Politicians who cheat the faithful

Conference confidence trick, page 14



FASHION

The little dress is getting smaller

Iain R. Webb, page 13; Paris, page 9

30p
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THE TIMES

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Conservative rebellions could lead to party's 'self-destruction'

Heseltine challenges Tory right

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND RICHARD FORD

MICHAEL Heseltine bounced back into the political arena yesterday to warn Conservative rightwingers that, even with the triumph of the Blackpool conference behind them, they cannot expect to dominate the party unchecked.

The President of the Board of Trade denied the very existence of Thatcherism and

Rebellious backbenchers are in danger of consigning the Tory party to opposition, Michael Heseltine said on his return to the political spotlight

even hinted that he still entertained hopes of leading his party. But he emphasised the need for party unity, warning of the dire consequences of continued infighting.

In his first interview since his heart attack four months ago, Mr Heseltine insisted that he was on the road to a full physical and political recovery and that he intended to be a force to be reckoned with for years to come.

While indicating that he has not abandoned his hopes of one day leading his party, he rallied strongly to Mr Major's side, reinforcing the prime minister's conference warning about the dangers of disunity. Drawing a parallel with the upheavals that wrecked Labour in the early 1980s and consigned it to a decade of opposition with the formation of the breakaway SDP, Mr Heseltine said that the Tories risked self-destruction if rebellion became a way of life.

Rightwingers hit back with a warning to Mr Major to "call off the pack" in next month's elections to the 1992

show how those values are going to inform our policies."

With Douglas Hurd signalling that he will resist a lurch to the right, Mr Heseltine launched his political comeback with a fierce attack on habitual Tory rebels. "Every party is a coalition. The only basis upon which you can lead a party of that sort is to find a pivot around which you can coalesce," he said on BBC television.

"If you get to the stage when the left or the right of the party feel that they have got such power that they can pull the whole thing their way, the danger is that the bits at the other end will snap. That is the danger of disunity and danger which absolutely devastated the Labour party when the left did exactly that and the moderate centre (the SDP) snapped off."

"For the Conservative party, which is in essence a party of power, huge historic perspective, ever to get into a position where it is perceived to be struggling to the point of self-destruction would have its political consequences and they would be dire."

Mr Heseltine condemned what he called the "College Green psychology", the headlong dash by dissident backbenchers for the lawns outside the Commons and the quick quote for the television news. Such behaviour, almost as a matter of routine, could not be in the party's interests.

One of the most ardent pro-Europeans in the cabinet, he also pointed out that nearly two-thirds of the country's trade was with the Continent. An anti-European stance would be costly. "If we create a psychology in this country where the men and women who earn the crust on which we dependance switched off to the significance of Europe, there is only one people that will suffer and that is us."

Mr Heseltine also disagreed with Lady Thatcher and Sir Norman Fowler over changing the rules that permit an annual leadership challenge to a sitting prime minister. Mr Heseltine, who used the earlier version of the rules to challenge Lady Thatcher in 1990, said: "It is perfectly reasonable that the parliamentary party should have these powers because they would only use them seriously in extreme circumstances."

"Nor do I think you should try to cosset the position of the leader of the party in the extreme circumstance." The alternative was the "men in grey suits", the right-dominated 1992 executive, which was arbitrary and could concentrate power in the hands of a small and perhaps unrepresentative group.

Russian sailors convert ship into floating currency

By ALAN HAMILTON

WHEN the Russian training ship Gangut tied up in Dartmouth, south Devon, last week, its crew poured ashore with one object in view: they had come to sell the Russian navy, or at least those bits of it not firmly screwed down.

They set up shop in the streets and pubs, hawking their wares with the enthusiasm of true capitalists. First they sold their cap badges, then their belts, followed by their uniforms. They sold ornaments and trinkets from home. Some of the stock was their own but most of it was the property of the defence minister in Moscow.

Former Soviet military uniforms, if not the Russian ones now current, may be bought on every street corner in eastern Europe, but it is rare for the supplier to come to market rather than merely lie in wait for the tourists.

The friendly and welcoming Devonians were apparently ready to pay well over the true market price for the souvenirs brought to their doorstep. For the Russians, their pockets oozing with real money from selling moved on to buying. They headed for the electrical shops and stripped their shelves of music centres, cassettes, compact discs, radios and even microwave cookers. The music department of Woolworths was a particular target.

another store was stripped bare and had to call for fresh stocks.

Devonians certainly took a lenient view of their visitors, buying them drinks in pubs and laying on buffets for them. Some traders were even prepared to take items of naval uniform in direct barter.

One local who bought a cap from a sailor said: "The Russian lads were amazing. They turned the town into one huge market. Literally everything they had which was not nailed down seemed to be on sale. When they had emptied the shops here they went across to Torbay to buy more."

They also bought food and at one stage were ordering 20 sheep in a family

shop, where a customer reported seeing two sailors trying to eat one banana, presumably to be a novelty as it still had its skin on. But the visitors impressed with their manners. "They were very well behaved; they even stood up when a lady entered the room," Mrs Janet Hill, owner of the Cherub Inn in the town said.

Yesterday the Gangut set sail for home, a little lower in the water with its weight of booty which will be sold in turn in the streets and bars of Russia for very many times the Woolworths' price. The crew will be praying that the Russian defence ministry takes a lenient view of its commercial activities and a lenient view of its



Michael Heseltine making his return to public life with a television interview filmed at a Banbury hotel. He said he still had leadership ambitions

America considers Somalia peace deal

FROM SAM KLEY IN MOGADISHU

AS A ceasefire took hold in Mogadishu yesterday, there were reports that the US was hoping to negotiate a deal with General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the Somali warlord. Thousands of his supporters took to the streets to celebrate.

Warren Christopher, Secretary of State, conceded on television that, although the hunt for General Aidid had been a "sound response" to the June killing of 24 Pakistani UN peacekeepers, American policy on Somalia had "got out of balance". He added: "I think we are all responsible for that, right up to and including the president."

A Time/CNN poll said that nine in ten Americans want the US to withdraw and only one in four support the president in sending more troops. Senator Robert Dole urged Mr Clinton to "lift the ransom" and Senator Sam Nunn said trying to capture a warlord in the town he controlled was "like going after Brer Rabbit in the briar patch".

American officials said that Robert Oakley, the special American envoy who arrived in Mogadishu yesterday, could ask the United Nations force to cease its hunt for General Aidid in return for peace and an enquiry into the ambush in June.

Admiral Jonathan Howe, head of the UN Somali operation, said, however, that he wanted legal accountability, with the general tried for his alleged part in the killing of UN troops in Mogadishu. He insisted that the search would continue despite the deaths of 70 UN soldiers and about 700 Somalis since June.

President Clinton denied that the US had offered a ceasefire. There had been no direct negotiations, he said, on peace or on the fate of the captured US serviceman, Michael Durant.

Yellow ribbons, page 11
Leading article, page 15

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

The rock revolution

How the pop industry is being reshaped by new technology, the rapidly changing tastes of a fickle generation of



record buyers and the legal battles between artists and record companies.

The universe

ARE we masters of our fate? In the first of two extracts from his new book, Stephen Hawking asks if everything we do is preordained.

Showdown



ENGLAND must beat Holland to reach soccer's World Cup. Rob Hughes meets an optimistic Graham Taylor

Plus...

BRITAIN'S finest team of columnists, including Simon Jenkins, Bernard Levin, Matthew Parris, William Rees-Mogg, Alexander Chancellor, Libby Purves, Alan Coren, Clement Freud and Janet Daley

Greek Left poised for victory

By AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE

ANDREAS Papandreu, the veteran socialist leader, last night looked likely to end nearly four years of conservative rule in Greece.

Mr Papandreu's Pasok party was poised for victory in the parliamentary elections, according to a television report based on projections by a French polling group.

Today the people are putting an end to a nightmare," Mr Papandreu, 74, said after casting his ballot. Pierre Giacometti, of the BVA French polling institute, said: "The strong trend in favour of Pasok cannot be reversed." The governing New Democracy Party had trailed Pasok by around six points in polls. During the campaign, the conservative prime minister, Constantine Mitsotakis, and Mr Papandreu had exchanged personal accusations.

Scant hope of change, page 9

Gorbachev dreams of return to power

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LIKE a former prime minister lurking over a party conference, Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday did his best to damn his successor and suggested that he might now attempt a return to power to "rescue" Russia.

He said the level of violence used against President Yeltsin's parliamentary opponents was "absolutely unacceptable" and was more like revenge.

He called on Mr Yeltsin to apologise but instead he heard only euphoria from the Kremlin. And he insisted there was no time to organise new elections by December.

In a satellite interview on the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme, he said he would soon decide whether to stand in the presidential election. And in a separate interview published in Moscow he said: "A week ago I was saying, I don't know what can force Gorbachev to come back. After October 3-4, we are all living in another country."

He told *Komsomolskaya Pravda*: "It's difficult to make a decision. But still, if the situation in Russia urges me to give up everything and to start dealing with Russian affairs, to rescue, to save the country, I will do that."

Elections ordered, page 10

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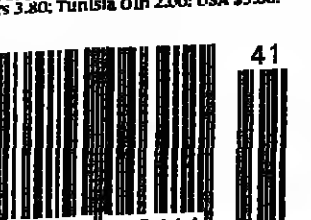
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INDEX	
Arts	27, 28
Births, marriages, deaths	16
Books	29
Business	32, 34, 36
Chess	7, 30
Concise Crossword	10
Court and Social	18
Diary	14
Education	31
Leading articles	15
Letters	17
Obituaries	15
Racing	23
Sport	19, 26
Times Today	18
Weather	18
TV & Radio	35

Buying The Times overseas

Austria	30	Belgium	28	France	25
Canada	21	Denmark	25	Germany	25
Cyprus	21	Finland	25	Greece	25
France	25	Ireland	25	Italy	25
Germany	25	Japan	25	Spain	25
Greece	25	Sweden	25	Switzerland	25
Ireland	25	Turkey	25	USA	25



'I am fine to carry the responsibilities and strains of a cabinet job'

Heseltine still has leadership hopes

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine made it clear yesterday that he still sees himself as a potential contender in any future Tory leadership contest, despite his heart attack four months ago.

Giving his first interview since being taken ill while on holiday in Venice, the President of the Board of Trade said that he would be back at his desk on Wednesday.

He said doctors had told him he had "the arteries of a man of 30 or 40" and that medically he was completely fit. But because he was still recovering, he would have to ease his way back into the saddle.

Looking relaxed, joking about his misfortune, and seeking to rise above some of the vicious intrigue

■ The President of the Board of Trade, given a clean bill of health by his doctors, says he will be back at his desk, "taking things steadily", on Wednesday

during his enforced absence from the cabinet table, Mr Heseltine said he had not lost his taste for politics. One of his first thoughts while lying in a hospital bed in Venice had been to jot down some notes for a party conference speech he was eventually advised not to make.

Pressed on whether he would be prepared to stand if John Major stepped down, Mr Heseltine said: "You can give every sort of evasive answer to these questions and they are all lies."

"They may sound nice and de-

ceive people, but the truth is that any politician that I know and respect, when it comes to the crunch, if they think they have the chance of preferment, and obviously ultimate preferment, take it. Some of them do it sheepishly, with reluctance, but they always do it."

However, Mr Heseltine said that he did not expect a vacancy. "My belief is that John Major will win the next election. I am a loyal member of John Major's cabinet. I intend to go on as long as he wants me."

Mr Heseltine added that he

would be guided in coming to a final decision about whether to enter a possible leadership race. "What I always said is you cannot do what your friends will never let you do. That is the real test."

If friends did not positively say "you are the guy who could do this" one was wasting one's time. But all the talk of leadership challenges was "for the birds", he said.

In an interview with John Humphrys on BBC television, Mr Heseltine said the reason he had looked a "tottering wreck" as he hobbled to the helicopter that helped bring him home from Italy was that he had been suffering from gout as a side-effect of the treatment for his cardiac condition.

"I am fine to carry the responsibilities and strains of a cabinet job, but

you have to take it a step at a time. It takes time to recover from the shock."

"I will go back next Wednesday to my department and will take it steadily to start with. But I dare say there will come a time when you won't notice much difference."

Mr Heseltine said that the pain of his attack had not been acute and that he had not been in fear of death. "One knew something was wrong. I was not frightened. I said to Anne: 'You had better get a doctor.'"

Asked about his consistently high ratings in polls about possible Tory leaders, Mr Heseltine put his appeal down to a combination of a capacity for causing trouble and the fact he had long hair, was tall and had been around a long time.

Heseltine warns right, page 1

ERM was rock which split the cabinet, says Thatcher

■ Lady Thatcher's memoirs show she was fighting an increasingly lonely battle against the European exchange-rate mechanism

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher's professional and personal relationships with Nigel Lawson and Geoffrey Howe foundered on the rock of a five-year cabinet battle over British membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The currency grid was also the source of her initial doubts about John Major's qualities as a potential leader.

Her memoirs, *The Downing Street Years*, portray her as fighting an increasingly lonely battle, in which the late Nicholas Ridley was her only staunch ally, against her senior colleagues to stand apart from the ERM. Her reluctant decision to join in October 1990, at the prompting of Mr Major, her Chancellor, was a mark of her growing political weakness. A few weeks later, she was gone.

But although the struggle with Mr Lawson, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Major dominates the first instalment of the serialisation of her memoirs in *The Sunday Times*, other ministers get generally unflattering walk-on parts. William Waldegrave was "slim, cerebral and aloof, a sort of Norman St John-Stevens without jokes".

Kenneth Clarke was "not someone on my wing of the party, but an energetic and persuasive bruiser, very useful in a brawl or an election".

John MacGregor's "limitations as a public spokesman were costing us dear in an area of great importance" when he was education secretary in 1990.

Baroness Thatcher also discloses that she sought to bring back Norman Tebbit as education secretary after Lord Howe's resignation. "Norman

shared my views on Europe—as on so much else. He was tough, articulate and trustworthy." But after his wife's horrific injuries in the 1984 Brighton bombing, he could not be persuaded to abandon his "duty" of looking after her.

Another revelation is the extent to which Mr Major, as Chancellor, repeatedly pressed her to join the ERM. She describes him as a "modest man" attracted by the politics of compromise. There was an "indiarubber" feel to his approach to monetary union and "intellectually he was drifting with the tide".

Lord Howe of Aberavon, Chancellor, foreign secretary and then Commons leader in the period 1979-90, is the target of Lady Thatcher's greatest scorn. While she presents differences with Lord Lawson as essentially over policy, she makes it clear that with Lord Howe, the breach was a personal one.

Shortly before Lord Howe's resignation, the act that precipitated her fall, she had despaired of him. "By this time the gap between us, unlike the rows I had with Nigel Lawson, was as much a matter of personal antipathy as of policy difference."

Lady Thatcher traces the breach with the two men, who sustained her governments for so long, to early 1985, when a soaring dollar persuaded Lord Lawson of the merits of joining the ERM and Lord Howe became a convert to the "Foreign Office's enthusiasm" for the currency grid.

"In the cabinet, I was in a very small minority. Most of my colleagues were not over-interested in the ERM issue. But Nigel and Geoffrey, by



Thatcher on Howe: "Would be remembered not for his staunchness as Chancellor, nor for his skilful diplomacy as foreign secretary, but for his final act of bile and treachery. The very brilliance with which he wielded the dagger ensured that the character he assassinated was in the end his own... In the cabinet he was now a force for obstruction, in the party a focus for resentment, in the country a source of division. On top of that, we found each other's company almost intolerable."

Howe on Thatcher: "She imputes malice to me in a way I cannot accept. My only sin is having worked together with her for 18 years, 14 of them as her partner. From time to time I dared to disagree, sometimes to point out that others did, and to try to 'fix' common ground. I resigned on policy grounds when it became impossible to go on any longer. Her former political judgment was deserting her. She became incapable of keeping colleagues. Bile and treachery? No. I did it with the utmost reluctance."



Thatcher on Lawson: "One of the cleverest people in British politics. His folly cost us dear. Should I have sacked Nigel? I would have been fully justified. He had pursued a policy without my knowledge or consent... but he was widely and rightly credited with helping us to win the 1987 election. He had complete intellectual mastery of his brief. He had the strong support of Conservative backbenchers and much of the Conservative press: they had convinced themselves that I was in the wrong and that only pettiness

or pigheadedness could explain the different line I took." Lawson on Thatcher: "Perhaps the Thatcher picture has to be seen in the context of her downfall. This is something which, understandably perhaps, even three years later she finds it very difficult to come to terms with. That causes her, perhaps unfortunately, to disparage her successors to some extent and to try to find scapegoats among some of her close colleagues." On Thatcher's claims about shadowing the mark: "A cock-and-bull story."

Geoffrey was the more ill-disposed to me personally. This mischief-making led first to the 'ambush' mounted by Lord Lawson and Howe in the summer of 1989 over the Madrid summit, in which they threatened to resign unless Lady Thatcher agreed to join the ERM. It also led to Lord Lawson's resignation in 1989 and Lord Howe's a year later after Lady Thatcher's "No, No, No" to greater powers for Brussels. His resignation speech, given added force by "long-suppressed rancour... succeeded in its real purpose, which was to damage me. It was cool, forensic, light at points and poisonous". Lady Thatcher said that Lord Howe's words were "deeply damaging to me".

Recriminations, page 1
Thatcher legacy, page 7
Matthew Parris, page 14

Bogus CIA men trick Gaddafi out of \$3m

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE Libyan government has been tricked out of millions of dollars by a group of Americans posing as CIA officials offering to help Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to escape further sanctions over the Lockerbie bombing.

Libyan agents are believed to have handed over more than \$3 million in cash. The disclosure comes as lawyers for the two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103, in which 270 people died, said in Tripoli yesterday that they had advised their clients against an immediate trial in Scotland.

This was seen by the Foreign Office as further prevarication by the Libyans and is expected to lead to the imposition of new sanctions by the UN Security Council when it meets in New York later this week. A Foreign Office spokeswoman dismissed claims by the lawyers that

they had been unable to prepare a proper defence because the grounds for the prosecution had not been fully disclosed. She again called on the Libyan government to implement UN resolutions that call for the suspects to be handed over for trial in Scotland or the United States.

It has been clear for some months that Colonel Gaddafi has been prepared to use a string of intermediaries and to deploy large amounts of cash to influence Washington and to divide the British, Americans and French in their campaign to bring the suspects to trial.

Informed sources say meetings with the bogus CIA officials had been held monthly since March at the Noga Hilton hotel in Geneva, with the backing of Colonel Gaddafi. The Americans, some of whom have criminal records, are believed to have some contacts in the State Department in Washington but are thought to have passed on messages to

the Libyans which are not in accordance with agreed policy between Britain, France and the United States.

In another scheme, reported yesterday, to offset the effects of sanctions, the Libyans are said to have tried to obtain billions of pounds in foreign currency by shipping cash out of Tripoli to be stored in Swiss banks.

According to one report, Libyan intermediaries have approached companies specialising in handling cash shipments, with a proposal to fly up to 35 billion Libyan dinars (£80 billion) to Switzerland. The plan, which is not thought to have gone ahead, was to convert the dinars into hard currencies by selling them at a discount rate to companies doing business in Libya. The new measures planned by the UN would freeze Libyan assets and ban supplying equipment or services related to the transport and distribution of oil.

Publication sparks bitter recriminations

Continued from page 1

while Chancellor, he was blind to inflation or pursued a private agenda over exchange-rate management. "She has not really got an insight into the reasons why the party decided she must go. She has cast around for explanation, blaming others rather than having an insight into herself," he said.

Alan Clark, one of Lady Thatcher's greatest champions during her years in power, said that she was a "diminishing force". "She has not behaved in a responsible and imperial way since she stood down."

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, also indirectly criticised Lady Thatcher's memoirs, deploring the growing tendency of former ministers to rush into print with "self-serving pseudo-history". He said such accounts were a breach of the party's traditional standards. The amount of money at stake was "dramatic" and inevitably affected the contents.

Lord Gilmour of Craigmillar, who was sacked from the cabinet in 1981, said the book appeared to be "full of bile about everybody".

Matthew Parris and Peter Riddell, page 14

NEWS IN BRIEF

Men held over IRA London bombings

Police were yesterday questioning three men in connection with a series of bomb attacks in north London over the past ten days. Another two men detained in Staffordshire were being interviewed by anti-terrorist squad detectives about other alleged IRA activities. All five men were arrested on Saturday, hours after explosions at Staples Corner, Cricklewood, and West Hampstead. On October 4, five devices exploded in Hornsey, Archway and Highgate, north London, injuring four people. On October 2, six people were hurt when three devices exploded in Finchley.

■ Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, told Irish radio yesterday that the only message the government wanted from Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin president, was that IRA violence was over for good. He said talks between Mr Adams and SDLP leader John Hume marred existing inter-party talks on Ulster.

Fire pay deal expected

Leaders of Britain's 48,000 firemen are expected to reach a new pay deal tomorrow that will end the threat of a fire service strike. Local authority employers and the Fire Brigades Union will meet to consider the rise due under the firemen's index-linked pay formula. An agreement, which would be the last public sector deal of the present round, would allow the government to claim success for its 1.5 per cent public pay policy. Both the employers and the FBU expect the outcome to be close to, or less than, the 1.5 per cent ceiling.

Inmate finds cell keys

An inmate obtained keys to cells at the top-security Frankland Prison, in Durham, which houses some of the country's most violent and dangerous criminals, including IRA terrorists. The prison is investigating the incident last month, when Paul Malone, 32, an armed robber serving 15 years, was allowed to wander unattended and enter a warder's office. The matter came to light when Malone told his story to a friend, Terry Howe. Mr Howe, of Newcastle upon Tyne, said: "If he'd wanted to, he could have opened every cell and let the prisoners out."

Churchill papers safe

A deal which will ensure that Winston Churchill's vast personal archives remain in Britain is nearing agreement after months of complex negotiations between his family, the trust that owns the papers and the government-backed National Heritage Museum Fund. Under the deal, private sponsors will buy the papers and then give them to the country, to prevent their being sold to a wealthy American museum or university. The collection has been valued at £50 million. The trustees have said they are prepared to take less money than a foreign buyer would be prepared to offer.

Former seaman killed

A former merchant navy steward has been found strangled in his ransacked flat. Police are investigating the possibility that Reginald Woolf, 49, of Edgeside, Lancashire, might have invited the killer back. Detective Superintendent Sandy Robson said: "Mr Woolf was known to be homosexual and it is part of several lines of enquiry we are following."

Apology after burial

A hospital has apologised to a woman after burying her stillborn baby without permission last week. The Bishop Auckland general hospital, co. Durham, admitted causing distress to Tracey Turner, 22, of Newton Aycliffe. A hospital spokesman said it would investigate how the mistake occurred.

Pit protest 'costs jobs'

More than 100 contract workers have lost their jobs at Parkside colliery, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, because a group of women is occupying mine offices in protest at pit closures. British Coal says. The 110 workers were removing underground mining equipment at the pit, which stopped cutting coal last November and closed in April.

Mothers unveil tribute

The mothers of the two boys who died in the IRA bombing at Warrington, Cheshire, in March, unveiled a memorial to them yesterday. It was the first time that Marie Comerford, mother of three-year-old Jonathan Ball, left, and Wendy Parry, mother of Tim, 12, had been to the shopping precinct since the attack. Each placed a red rose beneath a shopfront plaque bearing likenesses of the boys.

Suicide bids fail

A man survived two suicide attempts yesterday, police at Folkestone, Kent, disclosed. He first drove his car over an 80ft cliff, but escaped from the wreckage of his Vauxhall Chevette with cuts and bruises. He then leapt into the sea, but gave up his attempt to drown after an hour and waded ashore. The man, in his thirties, was taken to hospital with hypothermia.

Mail eyes Independent

Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*, would be willing to buy *The Independent*, but "only for a song", Sir David English, Associated's chairman, told BBC's *The Money Programme* yesterday. He was speaking on the day that a revamped *Independent* on Sunday was launched at an increased price of £1. On Tuesday, *The Independent* will raise its price to 50p, above *The Daily Telegraph* at 48p and *The Guardian* at 45p. Sir David said the paper would have to rue at a loss for a long time before being "turned around".

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مكتبة السلامة

Carey joins debate over high social cost of single mothers

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND NICHOLAS WOOD

DR GEORGE Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, intervened yesterday in the debate about single parents by warning of the dangers of children brought up without a father.

Dr Carey said the growing number of children with no experience of a father would "breed another generation with little idea of what a loving father can be". He said: "The resulting cost to our society is far greater than can be measured in financial terms."

His remarks to members of the Church of Scotland at St Giles cathedral in Edinburgh will be welcomed by the government, which has been pressing churchmen to take a stronger moral lead on the issue. Dr Carey referred to "the alarming rise in single-parent families".

A recent Panorama programme disclosed that some young single women saw "little need of permanent relationships with the men who had fathered their children". He asked: "Where are the models in our society where young people can find inspiration for their lives? Sadly, many lack these from a very young age."

Dr Carey's intervention came as ministers distanced themselves from suggestions that they were planning a campaign to persuade single mothers to give up their babies for adoption rather than provide for them.

The idea was hinted at by Michael Howard, the home secretary, last week at a fringe meeting during the Tory conference in Blackpool. He said that in the past much greater social stigma had been attached to illegitimacy. Many children born out of wedlock had been adopted — the best

outcome for both mother and infant, Mr Howard said.

Ministers said yesterday, however, that they were not aware of any plans to force or cajole single mothers into parting with their children by cutting back on welfare payments, for instance.

They said that it would do no harm to remind pregnant young women that there was an alternative to abortion or a life on benefits. One minister said he thought this argument would be better received coming from independent groups, such as charities caring for young mothers, than politicians.

Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, drew back from supporting the idea of the government encouraging adoption. In a BBC television interview, he said: "That is something to the best of my knowledge, the government has not announced or taken a decision on. That would be something that would be controversial." However, with the govern-

ment committed to legal changes that would stop single mothers jumping council housing queues and with the soaring costs of welfare under scrutiny, ministers are encouraging debate about the impact of family break-up and the fact that one child in four is now born outside marriage.

Dr Carey also addressed the issue of authority, warning of destructive consequences if it was rejected indiscriminately. Ultimately, the rejection of authority "leads to fragmentation and chaos", he said.

Referring to the recent papal encyclical, *Veritatis Splendor*, for its "strong Biblical assertions about the objectivity of God's truth", he said morality had become far too individualistic. Dr Carey said that as an Anglican he questioned some of the Pope's presuppositions about "how we discern the authoritative understanding of the teachings of Christ", but believed that morality and patterns of behaviour could never be confined merely to the individual's whim.

Most Britons in their 30s reject traditional family values and believe couples with children should not necessarily stay together, according to a National Children's Bureau survey published today.

The change in attitudes means couples are increasingly likely to cohabit, divorce or have a series of partners, and are much happier as a result.

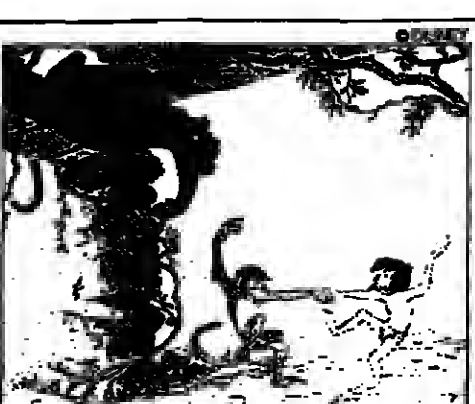
The conclusions are based on a 1991 survey of 17,000 33-year-olds born in a single week in 1958. It found that the happiest people were likely to be those in their second marriage, while the least contented were single women cohabiting with their partners.



Carey: "a generation know no father's love"



Stefan Hava from Enfield, north London, waiting to audition



Disney's cartoon Mowgli too sweet?

Mowgli hopefuls queue up for fame

By ALAN HAMILTON

ALTHOUGH Kipling was not specific on the point, it is highly unlikely that he envisaged Mowgli learning to speak with a Yorkshire accent. What he did make clear was that the young hero of *The Jungle Books* was Indian. That did not prevent a motley assortment of hopefuls, many indisputably Caucasian, from turning up at a central London drill hall yesterday to audition for a new version of Kipling's tales to be filmed in India next year.

There is, apparently, no established Asian actor of the correct age and stature. Down from Settle, North Yorkshire, and sounding like it, was Ben Haines, 18 and white. "I suppose I would have to do something about the accent," he said. Celestia Fox, the casting director, put him on file with all the others.

Presumably Mowgli should not look quite as sugar-sweet as in the Disney cartoon. Ms Fox said: "The person we are looking for has to be incredibly physical, as there is a lot of swinging from trees and training with wolves. But we do not want a great muscle-man; he will have to be like a graceful cat."

Casie Russell, 20, looked more promising: half Indian and half Italian, resident in Bromley, with a fine line in tigerish snarl. He was, he said, a Chinese martial arts instructor in his spare time. But could he swing by one hand from a top branch, stop a back in mid-gallop and yet retain a gentle look in his eyes? The film company did not appear to think so.

Police rue loophole as suspect, 13, flees again

A TEENAGER described by police as a "crime wave all on his own" was on the run yesterday shortly after social services authorised an emergency order for him to be locked up.

The boy, aged 13, is wanted for several burglaries and car crime. He was to be kept in secure accommodation until his appearance today before Leeds Youth Court, where social services were to apply for a long-term order.

After other alleged offences the boy had been remanded into the care of the local authority, which then placed him back at his home. But when police went to arrest him at his home in Leeds, his parents said they had no idea where he was.

One detective said the boy, who has been arrested more than 50 times, could be described only as a professional burglar. "He was getting caught after caution before he was ten and is practically in and out of the police station every day. We need to get him off the streets but there is little we can do. You just can't keep him still. He was placed under a three-year supervision order but is continually being arrested for more offences."

There is a complete loophole in the legal system that these young offenders can't be put into secure accommodation. This had to be a little crime wave all on his own.

A secure unit has been made available for the boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons.

City houses parents of accused in hotel

By JENNY KNIGHT

THE families of three juveniles accused of terrorising a partially sighted and deaf 99-year-old were put up in a three-star hotel after telling social workers they were frightened of reprisals by neighbours.

Last night, they were moved to another secret location after a row broke out over their £50-a-night accommodation, paid for by Newcastle upon Tyne City Council.

The families were moved from their run-down estate in Benwell, Newcastle, after their sons were accused of ransacking the home of Peggy Forbes. The boys, aged 11, 14 and 16, were remanded into local authority care on Tuesday, charged with robbery. Their parents and two other children were checked into the Grosvenor Hotel, in Jesmond.

Jeremy Beecham, the council leader, has since criticised the decision to approve the stay. "I do not think that moving the families into the hotel is an appropriate response," he said.

Last night, Miss Forbes' nephew, Ken Forbes, 70, said: "It is horrible that these people are living the life of luxury while my aunt has to barricade herself inside her house."

"How is it that the criminal element are always well cared for and pampered, while the victim is left to suffer alone? Peggy is still coming to terms with what happened."

Roland Boyes, Labour MP for Houghton and Washington, said: "There must be better places for these people to be rehoused in than a luxury hotel."

"In my opinion, if kids perpetrate terrible crimes, parents must be ready to suffer the consequences as well."

Officers will not respond after six false alarms

By A STAFF REPORTER

POLICE chiefs are blacklisting householders whose family burglar alarms lead to officers' time repeatedly being wasted.

With more than a million false alarms every year, police say that they cannot respond to every call. Properties with systems that cause more than six false alarms in any one year are likely to be put on a blacklist. Police will then refuse to answer further alarm calls.

The problem of faulty burglar alarms was discussed at meetings between the Association of Chief Police Officers and representatives of the security and insurance industry last week. Scotland Yard yesterday refused to discuss the matter, saying that it was an initiative by chief police officers.

The decision to restrict the police response reflects exasperation among senior officers with the large number of false alarms. Last year the estimated 650,000 monitored domestic systems around the country, which cost up to £1,000 to install, produced more than 1,500,000 false alarms. Many of those were caused by user error, changes in central heating temperatures or pets.

The new generation of systems favoured by the police are capable of verifying whether a house has been broken into by transmitting pictures or the sound made by an intruder to monitoring centres within seconds of the alarm being triggered.

Charity worker killed

By A STAFF REPORTER

A YOUNG graduate working as a volunteer at an Oxford hostel for the homeless died after he was stabbed through the heart during a row with a resident.

Jonathan Newby, 22, from the Devizes area of Wiltshire, staggered out of a hostel run by the Oxford Cyrenian Community on Saturday and collapsed on the pavement. Members of staff and paramedics gave emergency treatment but Mr Newby died in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, less than an hour later.

John Paul Rous, 47, unemployed, whose address was given as the hostel, was charged with murder yesterday. He is expected to appear before magistrates at Oxford today.

Mr Newby, a history, art and design graduate from Leicester Polytechnic, started to work as a care assistant at the recently refurbished four-storey hostel a few weeks ago.

Mr Newby's parents travelled from Wiltshire to identify his body before a post-mortem examination was carried out.

One of the staff at the hostel said yesterday: "Jonathan was working with us on a purely voluntary basis. We are all dreadfully shocked."

Boxer defends knockout yarn

By BEN MACINTYRE

ANDREW "Chubby" Griffiths was the hero of the hour when the Welsh boxing champion claimed to have knocked out two muggers who tried to rob him in a Florida street.

But Mr Griffiths' skills as a pugilist, it transpires, may be second to his talents as an actor. "It didn't happen," Sgt David Kowlasko, of the Florida police, told the Orlando Sentinel newspaper. Police investigators have listed the robbery as "unfounded".

Mr Griffiths, the reigning Welsh amateur super heavyweight champion, said yesterday at his home at Quaker's Yard, Mid Glamorgan, that he stood by his story. "It did happen and what I told the police out there is true. They are trying to fudge."

With the trio of Frank Bruno he described his response when two muggers demanded his wallet after he had used a cash dispenser 17 days ago. He said at the time: "Without thinking I let him have it with a punch to the face and down he went."

"The first fellow went down and the next thing the second one jumped me," he said. Mr Griffiths, 29, said he grabbed his assailant, knelt him in the head and then karate-chopped him, a technique not encouraged by the amateur boxing authorities.

For a few days Florida, which has seen its tourist industry damaged by violent attacks against visitors, thrilled to Mr Griffiths' post-fight commentary. "I gave them the hiding of their lives. They picked the wrong man," he told reporters.

The family holiday had not started well when their tour company collapsed, but after reporting his encounter one British newspaper provided tickets to Disney World, and another offered to fly the family home first class the *Sentinel* reported.

A global problem that cannot be put on ice.

Dr. Monica Kristensen describes herself as someone "interested in problems that seem fun from a theoretical point of view."

Her research in Antarctica may, therefore, be fun. But it also seeks to answer two related questions. How does the ice shelf respond to variations in air and sea temperature? And how do changes in the Antarctic ice sheets affect global weather?

Despite being faced with this complex problem, Dr. Kristensen remains positive, even in her regard for the Antarctic landscape. "I find it exceedingly beautiful. I feel happy when I'm here — in all the cold and misery."

Up on the Polar Plateau, with temperatures below -40 degrees centigrade, navigation by sextant and dead reckoning calls for an utterly reliable timepiece. Which is why Dr. Monica Kristensen relies on a Rolex.

Part of what makes a Rolex so dependable is its rugged case, which is sculpted from a solid block of metal using more than 150 operations.

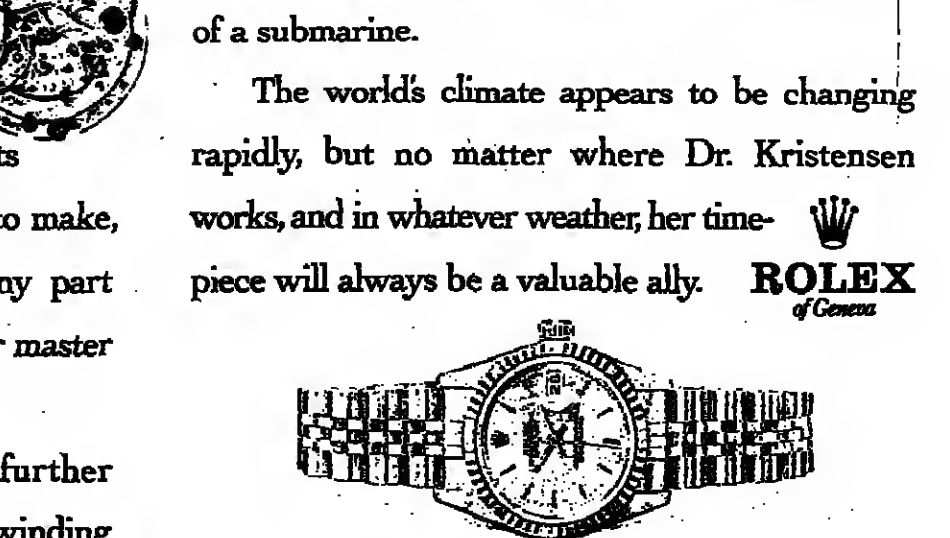
Such care is necessary because what is being produced must be massively strong — inside this case beats a movement that has taken up to a year to make, from the first operation on the first tiny part through to final assembly by our master craftsmen in Geneva.

The movement is further protected by the Twinlock winding crown, which screws down onto the Oyster case, offering protection as secure as the hatch of a submarine.

The world's climate appears to be changing rapidly, but no matter where Dr. Kristensen works, and in whatever weather, her timepiece will always be a valuable ally. **ROLEX** of Geneva



The Rolex Lady-Datejust Chronometer in steel and yellow metal with Jubilee bracelet.



Magistrates jeer Lord Chancellor over court plans

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, was greeted with loud jeers and hisses from angry magistrates at their annual meeting as he attempted to placate them over his plans for reorganising magistrates' courts.

The magistrates, who fear that the proposals to make the courts more accountable and efficient pose a grave threat to their judicial independence, left the Lord Chancellor in no doubt as to their determination to fight his plans through Parliament.

The unprecedented strength of feeling from the ranks of the normally restrained magistrates erupted as Lord Mackay attempted to defend the proposals to be contained in a bill next parliamentary session.

At the end of a stormy question and answer session, Joyce Rose, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, told Lord Mackay to loud applause that although much of what he had said was welcome there was disappointment over other parts, to which there would be strenuous resistance.

The proposals, published in a white paper last year, provide for magistrates' courts to be merged into much larger areas, for a new manager, or chief justices' clerk, to be appointed over these areas and for justices' clerks, who run the courts and advise JPs, to be put on fixed-term contracts.

Magistrates gave a standing ovation to proposers of a motion that the government's proposals were viewed "with great concern", urging Lord

Lord Mackay of Clashfern has failed to placate magistrates who fear management efficiency is not equitable with justice

Mackay "to do nothing that might put pressure on magistrates either directly or indirectly to subordinate the interests of justice to management efficiency." The motion was passed with only a handful of dissenters.

Afterwards, Rosemary Thomson, vice-chairman of the 30,000-strong association, said she had not witnessed such strength of feeling within the magistracy before. "Magistrates are feeling under enormous pressure - it has been quite unremitting in recent months," she said. There had been a succession of legislation: the Children Act, youth courts, the Criminal Justice Act 1991 with means-related fines, and then the amended Criminal Justice Act. Magistrates now faced further criminal justice legislation.

"If there had not been all this pressure, I doubt if the opposition to the white paper proposals would be so intense. Magistrates do feel they have been manipulated," she said.

Earlier Nan Bloom, chairman of the Teesside Justices, summarised the feeling of the meeting, saying: "The government's proposals will compromise our independence, and a fundamental constitutional principle will be lost - that of judicial independence. That is the right of any person to come before the magistrates' courts in the certain knowledge that right will be done... without external interference save for the professional advice of the

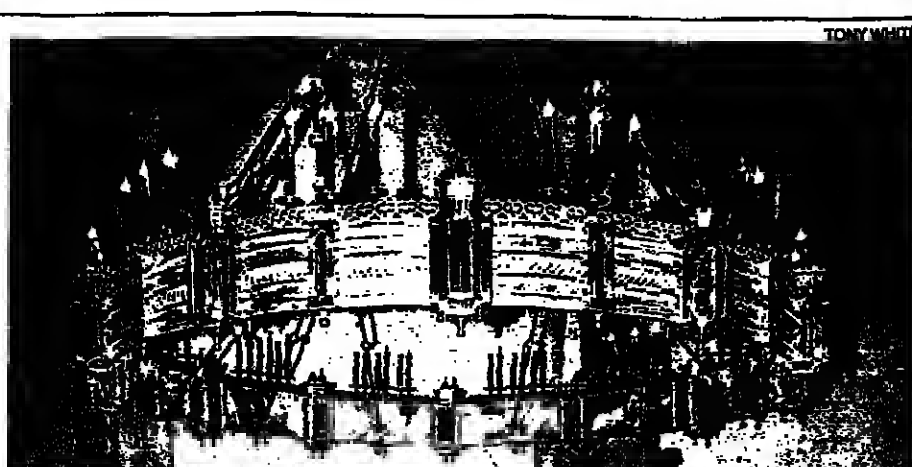
justices' clerk." Lord Mackay's pledge that independence would be enshrined in statute meant absolutely nothing, she said.

Lord Mackay was asked, to applause, why - if the Lord Chief Justice, at least 16,000 magistrates and the justices' clerks had all apparently misunderstood the proposals - he did not re-write them to make them clear.

Lord Mackay said he wished to take concerns on board and there had been lengthy consultation over the past year. The government had rejected earlier proposals for a national court service because they believed in the importance of local justice.

It was not his aim to undermine judicial independence, a principle he "unwaveringly held". "I would have no part in proposals which would undermine that independence of the magistracy. I don't see what possible ground I could have for wishing to do that." He added: "Having considered all the arguments put forward, nothing I have heard has caused me to alter my view that the changes I have proposed will not interfere with judicial independence."

However in one concession he said the government had agreed a review of the new and much-criticised formula for funding courts. This has been attacked for being based too much on results and through-put of cases.



The upper chamber of Wakefield Tower, lit by a corona copied from one in Germany



An actor alongside the criticised reproduction of Edward I's coronation chair

Historians reject 'fake' restoration of Tower rooms

By Alan Hamilton and Marcus Binney

NEWLY recreated medieval apartments in the Tower of London are historically inaccurate and illegal, according to experts.

English Heritage has prepared a report for the Department of National Heritage alleging that a new route taking visitors through the Wakefield Tower and Edward I's long-vanished apartment in St Thomas's Tower has been built without permission from English Heritage. Scholars say that the apartments have been so badly reconstructed and furnished that visitors can no longer tell what is original fabric, accurate replica, pastiche or pure invention.

The public were being "grossly deceived" by fakes being placed in a genuine context, Claude Blair, former keeper of metalwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum, said yesterday.

An art historian at the museum said it would have been better to keep the rooms closed for another 200 years.

Some of the historians consulted by the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, which manages the Tower, had advised against the proposals but found that substantial replicas had already been commissioned. "I felt they needed to spend a lot of money in a hurry," said one. English Heritage is also claiming that the necessary clearance to alter a scheduled monument was not obtained before work began, and that the work has concealed and possibly damaged recent important discoveries.

The upper chamber of the Wakefield Tower is now lit by a circular corona copied

from one in Hildesheim Cathedral, Germany. The Historic Royal Palaces Agency says it is the nearest light fitting they could find to the kind Edward I would have had. But Dr Paul Binski, lecturer in medieval art at Manchester University, said: "The corona is completely inappropriate. A room like this would have been lit by rush torches, not by a stinking great chandelier."

Fiercest criticism is directed at a white and gold reproduction of Edward I's brass coronation chair in Westminster Abbey; the copy has a pair of cuddly lions nestling at the foot.

"The whole point about the coronation chair is that it was designed for the Stowe of Stowe," says Dr Binski. There is no evidence that the chair ever came to the Tower, and other experts regard the addition of lions as contrary to heraldic principles.

Cocoon is also being expressed at a hooded fireplace installed by the agency which looks like stone but is in fact of a lightweight aggregate. Archaeologists believe that the original may have had a very rare type of hood, judging by scars in the stonework, and that this evidence is now concealed or destroyed.

In Edward I's recreated dining-room, costumed actors field questions from visitors. Stained glass inserted in turret windows is neither medieval nor modern, but Victorian. Inside, the walls have been painted with simulated stonework based on a medieval church in Kent, but while the walls are distressed to look old, a reproduction chair is painted to look new.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four freed after police find bones

Police investigating human remains found encased in concrete over the weekend have released four men from custody. It was disclosed yesterday. They had been arrested at the end of last week in connection with the disappearance in 1988 of Wayne Lomas, 31, a car dealer with underworld connections who is thought to have been murdered.

The men were questioned at different police stations in Bristol and released without charge. Police said they found the remains after two days of excavation under the floor of a house at Southville, Bristol.

The house is owned by a couple currently on holiday in Spain. They have been told of the discovery and police say they are not connected with the enquiry at this stage. Their house was one of five raided by detectives re-examining the disappearance of Mr Lomas.

Body in bath

A man has been charged with murder after the drowned body of Karen Thomas, 33, was discovered in a bath at her home in Wyke, West Yorkshire. The man, aged 28, will appear before Bradford magistrates today.

Canoe death

Robin Owen, 26, from Cookley, Hereford and Worcester, drowned after his canoe became trapped in rocks below the Claerwen dam in Dyfed.

Deer butchered

Poachers beheaded seven deer in fields around a school for children with speech problems at Alderwasley, Derbyshire. Police said they were butchered for venison.

Theft stabbing

A 40-year-old man who received multiple stab wounds after he tried to stop a bag snatcher is in a serious condition in Bristol Royal Infirmary. A man arrested at the scene has been charged.

Comic relief

Frank Taylor, 79, a pensioner jailed for refusing to pay his £347 poll tax, was released from Kirkham jail, near Blackpool, after comedian Bernard Manning paid it.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond draw: £100,000 prize bond no. 8ML 588215 (winner lives in Wolverhampton); value of holding £50,000; 23VT 98783 (Middlesex); £500; £25,000; 19SS 308132 (London borough of Lewisham); £1,010.

Oxford diocese leads race to ordain first woman priest

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

DIOCESES in the Church of England are racing to be the first to ordain women from the 1,200 who are waiting to become priests.

Leading the field at present is Oxford, with April 16 and 17 fixed for ordinations. Running close behind are St Albans, Worcester, Liverpool and Durham.

The Bishop of Oxford, the Right Rev Richard Harries, predicts that women priests will reach a new constituency in secular society, bringing more people into the church. "Women do have particular gifts to bring to the church and the ministry," he said. "These will be more fully used when they can be ordained to the priesthood."

"I believe there is a whole new constituency of people who are responsive to women's ministry in a way they have not been to men. Women's gifts will be able to be used to the full."

Those women likely to be among the first include the Rev Gil Sumner, 54, a former teacher. Mrs Sumner, who has wanted to go into ministry since her teens, was one of the first women to be ordained deacon, in April 1987, shortly after it became legal. She has run a lay training scheme for three years, is vice-principal of the Oxford diocese ministry course and helps with services in a group of rural churches.

"The most significant difference is that within my parish ministry I shall be able to celebrate the eucharist, which will complete my pastoral ministry," she said. "That being the heart of Christian worship, it is difficult to minister to a congregation in its fullest sense if that part is not open to you."

Also among the ordinands

from Oxford diocese will be the Rev Annette Nixon, parish deacon at Earley, Reading. Mrs Nixon, 56, said: "Having men and women together makes the priesthood whole. Not being allowed to celebrate the eucharist has been frustrating and painful. This will free so many gifts that women can bring to the priesthood."

All 1,200 women are likely to be ordained by the end of next summer. Most dioceses plan to conduct their ordinations on a single day. It had been thought that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, would ordain the first woman priest, as a measure of his support, but he is planning a foreign visit shortly after Easter. Women in the Canterbury diocese will not now be among the first.

A spokeswoman for Dr Carey said: "The Archbishop of Canterbury has no particular desire to be first."

Several difficulties remain to be negotiated before the ordinations can take place. The Church Society is seeking a judicial review to determine whether the general synod was within its legal rights when it decided to ordain women priests. The synod office has pledged to defend the action.

An "act of synod" due to be debated by the synod next month is designed to placate opponents with a network of traditionalist bishops who will offer pastoral care, but it is being threatened by criticism from both sides.

The legislation to ordain women priests must also be debated soon by both Houses of Parliament before it can go forward for Royal Assent.



The Rev Gil Sumner and a parishioner, Jack Eeley, 8

Excavation shows pharaohs knew the secret of concrete

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

CONCRETE, the stuff of modern cities, turns out to have been familiar to the pharaohs of ancient Egypt nearly 3,500 years ago.

Researchers have found that under Akhenaten, who reigned from 1353 to 1335 BC, concrete was invented to speed construction of a new capital. But the technique was lost for centuries until rediscovered by the Romans.

The city, Akhet-Aten, was built on a site on the middle Nile. One of the royal architects came up with a new method of preparing foundations which anticipated some of the ideas of the late 20th century.

"The first step was to dig

out a shallow foundation pit in the desert over the entire area." Barry Kemp, an Egyptologist at Cambridge University who led the research, said. "A construction raft was then created by spreading a layer of concrete over the entire floor of the pit."

"The smooth, flat surface of the raft made it like a colossal drawing-board on which the architect could mark out the plan of the building at full scale in ink or with lightly scored lines," Mr Kemp said. Foundations were built on the concrete rafts, and the stone walls of new palaces were then built on top of them. John Cox of

British Gypsum analysed newly excavated samples of the foundation material at the firm's research department at Loughborough, Leicestershire. It showed that the Egyptians knew how to make gypsum - a mineral common in the limestone desert - into cement by heating. Mr Cox said. This cement bound the concrete.

The Egyptian concrete has survived remarkably well. "Wherever stretches of the foundation bed have survived, they show no signs of cracking or subsidence," Mr Kemp said. Not so the city itself: it stood for only twenty years before being razed by unsympathetic successors.

Dashboard snake reduces driver to a crawl

By Jenny Knight

A TEACHER'S drive in a hired car came to a panic-stricken conclusion when a boa constrictor came out of an air vent. Karen Mathieson, 41, was driving south through North Yorkshire in the fast lane of the A1 when the snake appeared between the dashboard and windscreen of the 1.4 Escort.

"It sat there and looked at me and I looked back in horror," she said. "I

couldn't believe my eyes. It went back into the vent and then it suddenly reappeared. I have always had a phobia about snakes."

Mrs Mathieson, of Ponteland, Northumberland, was 60 miles into a journey to her mother in York on Saturday. She slowly left the A1 at the next exit and called the police. When it peeped out at them they summoned the RSPCA and a snake expert from nearby Caterick. Police took Mrs Mathieson to York while

the hire car was towed into the city. The RSPCA failed to coax the snake out and believes that it wriggled away.

Paul Ashlin, an RSPCA inspector, said: "We stripped the whole of the front of the car right down and we're 99 per cent sure it has gone. It's not dangerous - by its size, it couldn't do much harm."

The car had been hired a week earlier from Budget Rent-a-car in Newcastle upon Tyne. Nobody from the company was available for comment yesterday.

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Legacy of Thatcher years spells doom for Tories

IF, today, it is evident to all that Margaret Thatcher was bound to fail in her mission of effecting a national renaissance in Britain, it is no less clear that she succeeded in transforming British political life irreversibly.

Among the many deep and lasting changes wrought during her years of leadership, three stand out as having overriding importance for the future of British politics.

First, as a result of a decade of Thatcherite policy and rhetoric, the terms of political debate have been permanently altered. Socialism has been struck off the agenda, and the Labour party has come to accept that the proper management of market institutions, rather than any form of public ownership or central planning, is the objective of a sensible economic policy. If we have a post-socialist political culture, credit must be given to Baroness Thatcher.

A second change is equally profound. The undeclared objective of postwar governments of both parties was to contrive an alignment of the economic and the electoral cycles. Lady Thatcher abandoned this objective. She sought instead to decouple the voters' perception of government from the performance of the economy. It is the success of this project, far more than voters' mistrust of Labour's economic competence, that accounts for the otherwise inexplicable victory of the Conservatives, in the middle of a deep recession, at the last general election. The decoupling of government and economy is ominous in its implications for the present government since it nullifies or weakens the electoral advantage it might gain from any economic up-turn.

Thirdly, Thatcherism effected a partial demolition of the established institutions and class hierarchies. In this regard, it was a force for modernisation far more potent than any Labour government apart from that which came to power in 1945. Mrs



The nation's mood and the state of the Tory party rule out a return to 'traditional values', John Gray writes. The real beneficiary of Thatcherism may be the Labour party

Thatcher perceived that there was a substantial constituency that stood to benefit from policies of privatisation and deregulation. In pursuing such policies, Thatcherism altered the institutional landscape of Britain almost beyond recognition. But it also destroyed the coalition of interests that sustained it in power, and created a political environment that may well prove hostile to Tory electoral prospects for many years.

In its heyday, in the mid-1980s, the self-defeating effects of Thatcherism were perceived by very few. Indeed, in the triumphalist think tanks of the New Right, it was hailed as a permanent fact of political life. Neo-Liberal visionaries pronounced that Labour would never rule again, that the economic problem was solved, and similar absurdities. The almost elemental political force of Thatcherism was thereby transformed into an ideology, with predictably disastrous consequences.

When Lady Thatcher was at length ousted, it was in part a reaction of the Tory instincts of the party against the ideological illusions that had led her to embrace the poll tax. By then, however, the party and the country had undergone such a metamorphosis that a return to the policies and virtues of an older Conserva-

tism was no longer possible. The self-defeating effects of Thatcherism arose from the destructive impact of unfettered market forces on the interests and patterns of life of the social groups which supported it. Not only were new entrants into the enterprise culture savaged by negative equity, insupportable debt and long-term unemployment. The enterprise culture itself proved to be a solvent of bonds of trust and community, and a source of insecurity to many.

The mobility demanded by a dynamic market economy is not easily reconciled with a settled common life. The end result was the weakening or dissolution of the ties of community and the generation of a society of strangers.

The tendency of policy under the Major government has been to reinforce these destructive tendencies. Ill-conceived reforms of the professions — including, now, nursing and the police force — are bent on replacing an ethos of service by the meagre morality of contract. In this, and many other respects, the Major government has differed from its predecessor only in its spectacular ineptitude, in which policy-making and crisis management have become indistinguishable. In this regard, Lady Thatcher's assessment of her successor in

her memoirs seems if anything overly generous.

The solidification of the party around a revivalist rhetoric of traditional values at Blackpool produces a fleeting resemblance of peace that will prove electorally costly. Public concern is real enough, but the traditional values invoked at the conference do not embody what voters feel is most threatened in their lives. This is the common environment of public institutions and social practices that is being eroded by a combination of uncontrolled economic change and doctrinaire government policy. The swing to the right is unlikely to save John Major's leadership — and it represents another large step towards electoral disaster.

To defend the policies of the 1980s against the realities of the 1990s, which is the strategy of the Tory right, is an exercise in anachronism. Neither the condition of the party nor the mood in the country permits a revival of traditional Toryism. The listless and defensive tone of the present Tory leadership suggests that it may itself suspect that its historical fate is to preside over the strange death of Tory England.

The likelihood is that the Tories will be squeezed by a pincer movement in which Labour retains its northern strongholds while the Liberal Democrats make steady gains in the south. If Labour can make the cultural changes demanded of it, the party's historical role may turn out to be that of absorbing the culture of choice and wealth creation which is the benign inheritance of Thatcherism, while infusing it with a concern for conservation and community which the Tories appear to have lost. What more fitting epitaph for Thatcherism, than that it brought to power a genuinely conservative Labour party?

John Gray is a Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford, and the author of 'Beyond the New Right' (Routledge, 1993).

Thatcher memoirs, page 2

The Times Essay



Onlookers gathering yesterday to watch two tower blocks collapsing in clouds of dust to make way for houses with gardens and low-rise flats. Extra safety precautions were enforced after the

death of a woman onlooker at a similar demolition in Glasgow this summer. About 3,000 residents were moved from flats around the 20-storey blocks in Hackney, east London, and moved to a

marquee on Hackney Marshes. More than 25,000 tonnes of rubble crashed to the ground when Sister Ita Keana, 48, a nun who lived in one of flats, pressed the detonator button.

Think tank 'explodes' modern man's myths

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

MODERN man is in the grip of environmentally based myths on a par with poises, sea monsters and weather gods, claims a report published today by the right-wing think tank, the Adam Smith Institute.

Russell Lewis, former general director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, has compiled an A-Z of so-called environmental fictions, perpetrated by self-interested scientists, zealous environmental-

ists and misguided governments. Recycling paper, the threats of acid rain and the pressure to re-useable cloth nappies all come in for a hammering as follies of modern, environmentally-misguided, man. Such enthusiasms, the product of fads and fancies backed up by vote-catching government regulations, are costing society "billions of pounds ... but have highly dubious validity", Mr Lewis claims.

He argues that the sensible application of market forces will tackle genuine environmental issues, citing the plight of African elephants. Numbers of elephants have increased in Botswana and Zimbabwe, where villagers can exploit them commercially. "Elephants have declined in Kenya where absolute protection is the rule," he says. Indeed Mr Lewis goes so far as to call for the return of DDT, the pesticide linked with

the decline of birds of prey in Britain and contaminating the food chain. He attacks biodiversity, the attempt to preserve the earth's range of plant and animal species in the face of habitat loss. "Were it not for the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago the human race might never have developed," the report argues. □ The Environmental Alphabet by Russell Lewis (Adam Smith Institute, £25).



Revived Kasparov goes in for the clean kill

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

GARRY Kasparov, the world champion, won the 15th game of *The Times* World Chess Championship against Nigel Short at London's Savoy Theatre on Saturday night.

Once again, a packed audience thrilled to Kasparov's sparkling technique. However,

Short, during the champion's time shortage, missed a chance to stay in the game.

Kasparov now leads by 10½ points to 4½, and needs another 1½ points to retain his title in the 24-game match, and two more points to clinch the lion's share of the £1.7 million prize fund.

After the game Kasparov said: "Short was unwise to play into my favourite opening, the Queen's Gambit Declined Exchange Variation. I have studied this intensively. This was an instructive textbook victory and the cleanest kill of the match."

Kasparov was in buoyant mood and seemed to have shed the tiredness that had dogged him in the previous week and a half.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Nigel Short
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 c5
2 c4 e6
3 Nc3 Nf6
4 cxd5 exd5
5 Bg5 Bb7
6 e3 0-0
7 Bc3 Nbd7
Short: "I have scored well on the Black side of the Queen's Gambit against both Gelfand and Timman in my previous qualifying matches. The strategy of setting up a rock-like defence was successful."

Kasparov: "I thought for a long time over this pawn sacrifice. If Short now accepts it with 10 ... Bxd4 I play 11 Bxf6 gxf6 12 Nxd5 Qxd5 13 Qx4 Bx3 14 Nf4 Qa5 15 Qxa5 Bxa5 16 Nxb3 Ne5 17 Rfd1 when I stand much better in the simplified position."

White: Kasparov
Black: Short
10 ... Bxd4
11 Bxf6 gxf6
12 Nxd5 Qxd5
13 Qx4 Bx3
14 Nf4 Qa5
15 Qxa5 Bxa5
16 Nxb3 Ne5
17 Rfd1

Kasparov: "Short should have tried 15 ... Qe7 with a playable position. Playing ... Rxe7 combined with ... b6 is a positional mistake."

but in fact this move exposes all the weaknesses in Short's camp. If now 21 ... dxe4 22 Nxe6 Nxe6 23 fxe4 Nxd4 24 Q2 c5 25 Bxf7+ Kg7 26 Be6 Nxe6 27 Qh6 Kh6 (if 27 ... Qd6 28 Rxd7+ wins) 28 Qxe6 when I have a tremendous advantage."

Short: "Of course, I mustn't play this. It gives Kasparov a strategically overwhelming position. I must play 28 ... Rcd7 and defend myself."

Kasparov: "I can understand that Nigel tried this very risky move in my time trouble. He had finally run out of patience and did not want to commit himself to the more passive 28 ... Rcd7 when I continue the attack with 29 e5 f5 30 exf6 Rf7 31 Bb1 Ne8 32 Re1 when I eventually arrive through the 'black holes' in Short's structure."

29 e5 Qe8
Short: "I should have played 29 ... Rcd7 when if 30 Nc3 Rxd4 31 Bxf7+ Kd7 (if 31 ... Kh8 32 Bxg6) 32 Q2+ N5 33 exf5 c5 at least I have some counterplay."

Kasparov: "This move is Short's decisive error. He had to play 29 ... Rcd7 when I would have continued 30 Kh1 Ne6 31 Bxe6 Rxe6 32 Qxd8 Rxd8 33 e5 when Black faces a very dim endgame. After 29 ... Rcd7 less clear is 30 Nc3 Rxd4 31 Bxf7+ Kd7 32 Q2+ N5 33 exf5 c5 34 fxe6 Kxe6. Black's king is exposed, but he is well centralised and his bishop is powerful."

30 Nc3 Rcd7
31 Qe2 Ne6
32 e5 c5
33 bxc5 bxc5
34 c5 Nc4
35 Ne4 Qd8
36 Nf6+ Kg7
37 Ncd7 Rcd7
38 Rcd1 Ne5
39 Rcd1 Resigns

Kasparov: "This move is definitely an error. Short wants to develop his bishop to b7 but now Black has a permanent weakness on the b6 square."

17 Rcd1 Bb7
18 Bb1 Nbg7
19 e4 Rb8
20 Bb2 Rd7
21 Nf4

Winning Move, page 36

THE TIMES checkmate

£1,000 to be won every day

CHECKMATE is the new instant cash game that anyone can play — you don't need to be a chess expert. All you have to do is check the positions on your Checkmate Card against those printed on the daily Checkmate Chess Board, marking the pieces off on the Checkmate Table as the positions on your card match those of the Checkmate Board. It's so simple to take part — and perhaps win £1,000.

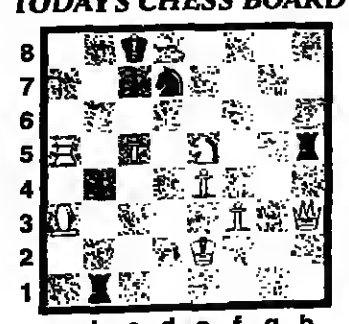
HOW TO PLAY

On your Checkmate Card there are 20 letter-number combinations — g6, h2, a5 and so on. These represent the positions on a standard chess board.

Compare the positions on your Checkmate Card against those on Today's Chess Board (right). If a combination on your card matches a chess piece on the Checkmate Chess Board mark off that piece in the Checkmate Table.

If you are able to mark off all the pieces in the Checkmate Table in any one day, in any order, you win or share in the daily prize of £1,000 cash.

TODAY'S CHESS BOARD



TODAY'S CHECKMATE TABLE

King		Queen
Rook		Bishop
Pawn		Knight

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□ TODAY'S WINNER will be announced in *The Times* tomorrow. Saturday's winners: Mrs C H M Adams, Leafield, Oxon and Mr R Pearson, Leeds.

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MEANS BUSINESS

Greek voters bewail election offering little real change

FROM TOM RHOODES
IN ATHENS

AN AIR of ambivalence swept Greece yesterday as the nation went to the polls in the firm knowledge that once again the immediate result could not change a political culture which has dominated the country since the collapse of the military junta in 1974.

First results indicated that the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) of Andreas Papandreu were ahead of their main rival, the New Democracy Party, led by Constantine Mitsotakis. Some doubt remained about an unusually high number of undecided voters who could affect the balance before the final result is announced today.

The breakaway Conservative Political Spring party led by Antonis Samaras, the former foreign minister, remained an unknown quantity although many observers felt it likely that any votes in his favour would come at the expense of Mr Mitsotakis. While more than eight million voters had a choice of 27 parties, the only other

■ The battle of the "dinosaurs" has left most Greeks unmoved. Many are clearly bored by the protracted septuagenarian stranglehold in the parliament

groupings likely to receive the required 3 per cent needed for a seat in the 300-member parliament were the Communists and, perhaps, the Left Coalition.

A traditional, vote inducing ban on the sale of alcohol came into force before polls opened and continued until this morning, but it was thought the warm weather provided more of an incentive in a country where voting is deemed mandatory. Initial predictions suggested that more than 80 per cent of the electorate would actually make it to the polling booths.

The election has been widely viewed as the most significant event in 30 years, as instability in the former Yugoslavia and strained relations between Greece and its neighbours Albania and the former Yugoslavian republic of Macedonia have lured the country to-

wards an unpleasant Balkan quagmire. Simultaneously the chronically weak economy, which relies heavily on European Community subsidies, has left Greece precariously placed to assume the EC presidency in January.

Despite the importance of the poll, many Greeks are clearly bored by the septuagenarian stranglehold in parliament. The campaign between the two dinosaurs, as the main contenders are known, has been fought not so much on the importance of the issues as the trading of insults and this has done little to inspire an already disaffected electorate.

If he wins, Mr Papandreu, an ailing 74, would count it as an extraordinary personal victory vindicating his name after the £130-million Bank of Crete scandal and his much-publicised marriage to a mistress almost half his age. His health is extremely poor and while many Greeks will vote for his party they must hope for a change in leadership soon afterwards.

Mr Mitsotakis, 75, has said he will resign if the election is lost. Even if he secures victory, a high unpopularity rating will make his position untenable. Many colleagues in New Democracy have tried to distance themselves from a leader perceived to have served the interests of his family and business associates. His government's austerity programme has been hugely unpopular, lowering the standard of living among both the middle and working classes.

It appears unlikely that either party will gain the 180 seats necessary for prolonged government, in which case a further election will take place in 18 months.

Photograph, page 18



Andreas Papandreu arriving at an Athens polling station yesterday accompanied by his wife, Dimitra



Models displaying lively printed linen outfits by Jean-Charles Castelbajac at the spring/summer 1994 fashion previews in Paris. He also designed the shoes, which were made by the Russian sculptor, Gosha

Foreigners star in fashion circus

BY IAIN R. WEBB, FASHION EDITOR

AS THE fashion circus moved to Paris this weekend, the reputed fashion capital of the world had to face the fact that it was the foreign names who were grabbing the headlines.

On Friday, the opening day of a week of continual spring/summer 1994 preview presentations, the first show by the Belgian Dries Van Noten set the tone. Van Noten showed a pretty collection full of floral dresses, cropped waistcoats and wrap skirts in vibrant spice colours giving a hint of an Indian summer.

Then it was the turn of the Japanese. Issey Miyake and Comme des Garçons, designed by Rei Kawakubo, established their names in Paris in the early 1980s.

Both presented strong collections featuring their own particular brand of fashion which verges on the intellectual. However, it was British "bad boy" John Galiano who had the audience jumping to their feet to applaud his lavish showing. Galiano's love of the theatrical emerged once again as he opened his show with models dressed in Miss Havesham-style faded lace and overblown crinoline skirts, dust falling from their elaborate hairdos. These were followed by 1930s gangsters in tailored trouser suits and their molls in bias-cut slip dresses. The finale featured evening gowns fit for a deposed Prussian princess who had escaped with the

crown jewels, proudly displayed on swanky satin sashes. They deserved an ovation, which is exactly what the bleached-haired Galiano received.

On Saturday, the Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto showed his version of punk rock: clashing fluorescent pink and black on billowing tunics, spray canning stripes and spots on to slip dresses in navy and grey.

The collection in sombre black, grey, navy and white of another Belgian, Ann Demeulemeester, included a permanently rucked up shirt that will prove the bête noire of dry cleaners the world over.

Fashion previews, page 13

Council of Europe tackles rights

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THIRTY-TWO European nations decided at the weekend to strengthen the human rights powers of the Council of Europe. Leaders at the 14-day summit in Vienna agreed to make the European Court of Human Rights more accessible to the public — move on which Britain appeared to have reservations.

The final declaration gave warning of the dangers of resurgent nationalism, especially in the Balkans, while President Mitterrand of France described as a "cancer" at the heart of Europe.

The court is to become a full-time body, allowing cases to be brought more quickly as its three judges will be able to refuse to hear hopeless cases without having to wait for the European Commission of Human Rights to examine them. Litigants will still have to exhaust legal processes in their own countries before going to the Strasbourg court.

Britain was represented by Lord MacKay of Clashier, the Lord Chancellor, who said that the time cases took had been reduced. He added, however, that any change should be able to stand the test of time and the high standard of jurisprudence must be maintained.

The summit agreed the procedures needed to be streamlined. Nine nations have joined the council since 1989 and by last year a number of cases before the court was 1,861 compared with 404 in 1981.

The declaration said that the protection of national minorities in Europe was "an essential element of stability or democratic security in a continent".

At the Vienna meeting, 14 council welcomed, as new candidate members, Russia, Ukraine, Belarusia, Moldova, Latvia, Albania and Croatia. In most of those countries the protection of minorities is a matter of controversy and one likely to delay full membership of the council.

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Yeltsin orders soviet elections in assault on local resistance

FROM ANNE McELVOY
IN MOSCOW

YORIS Yeltsin moved at the weekend to subdue the final rations of resistance, despite concern among some ministers and key supporters that he is moving too far, too fast.

The president decreed that Russia's regional soviet councils should be subordinate to local administrators loyal to him and ordered elections to new local councils in the 66 Russian regions to be held simultaneously with parliamentary elections in December. The decree advises the 22 autonomous republics to follow suit.

The move is Mr Yeltsin's last offensive on the eve of a postponed trip to Tokyo, which will be dominated by the fate of the four Kurile islands seized by the Soviet Union at the end of the second world war and which Japan wants returned before it will

■ Critics say the Russian leader is moving too far, too fast. He appears keen to consolidate his power before visiting Tokyo for talks on the disputed Kurile islands

consider granting aid to Moscow. Until now, Moscow's hands have been tied by the hardline opposition's refusal to contemplate a change in the islands' status.

Notwithstanding his parliamentary foes being conquered, President Yeltsin seems unsure of what to do about the territories. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian prime minister, caused a diplomatic scandal two months ago when he said that the return of the Kuriles to Japan was not on the agenda. Other aides have said since that the islands will, sooner or later, be returned.

Given the president's current high-energy mood, any-

thing is possible, although he will be wary of providing the opposition with fodder for its nationalist stance in the run-up to the elections. His ruling on the soviet stopped short of summarily dissolving the councils after some of his ministers, notably Sergei Shakrai, his favoured aide and deputy prime minister, had expressed doubts about the extent of Mr Yeltsin's authoritarian approach.

The soviets are the foundation of local power structures and enjoy immense authority, particularly in areas distant from Moscow. The decree will test the nerve of their leaders, many of whom have said that they want to pass their own referendums or constitutions before dissolving existing legislative power structures.

In Moscow, the state of emergency imposed during the fighting last Sunday has been extended for a further week with a nighttime curfew. Only one senior participant in last week's unsuccessful rebellion remains uncaptured: Ilya Konstantinov, head of the militant National Salvation Front.

Yesterday, crowds clustered in the autumn sunshine on the Kutuzovsky bridge, presenting an uneasy throwback to the sights of a week ago, when demonstrators massed there to bring down Mr Yeltsin and his reforms. This time, however, they were armed with cameras rather than clubs, as Muscovites and tourists converged on the greatest attraction in town: the blackened White House, bombarded by pro-Yeltsin forces.

Pensioners stood and clucked over the damage, comparing it with the ravages of the second world war, and children were given potted accounts of the clashes, each with the narrator's own spin. Out of the varying accounts the first draft of history was being written. But most of the crowd seemed content to gawp, the more prosperous filming the rubble and tank tracks with video recorders, the latest example of the westernisation that die-hard conservatives wanted to reverse with their insurrection.

With the curfew, the population is getting used to long nights indoors and jokes about a resurgent rise in the birth rate are doing the rounds. The city's nightlife has reverted to Soviet standards with no clubs open and restaurants closing at nine to allow staff to travel home.

Underworlds of Russia and Italy seal crime pacts

BY JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RUSSIAN criminals have sealed pacts with Italy's main Mafia groups to carve up the trade in drugs and nuclear material, a leading Italian investigator said yesterday.

Luciano Violante, chairman of Italy's parliamentary committee of enquiry into the Mafia, said Russia had become "a kind of strategic capital of organised crime from where all the major operations are launched".

He told Italian state radio's GR-1 news the Russian mafia had held at least two summits with the three main Italian crime organisations since 1991 to "discuss drug money laundering, the narcotics trade and selling nuclear material". He added: "Just think of what kind of opportunities are being offered by the privatisation process in eastern Europe and you realise what a market had been opened for drug money laundering."

He said one summit was held in Warsaw in March 1991 and a second in Prague last October. The Sicilian Mafia, the Neapolitan Camorra and the Calabrian 'Ndrangheta were all represented at those meetings with Russian crime bosses.

"Men from the former KGB, from Russian organised crime and Italian organised crime took part in the meetings," Signor Vio-

lante, a member of the former communist Democratic Party of the Left, told a police academy conference on Saturday. "Russia is becoming a strategic point for organised crime because of the lack of specialised legislation. Controls are more limited on drug trafficking, on smuggling of radioactive material and on money-laundering, which is carried out by buying state firms."

The police said yesterday that they had arrested a Cosa Nostra boss on charges of organising the car bomb that killed Paolo Borsellino, the anti-Mafia judge, last year and had charged another gangster with murdering a Sicilian businessman who refused to meet extortion demands.

Officers of the anti-Mafia police unit captured Salvatore Profeta, head of the Mafia in the Palermo district of Santa Maria di Gesù, at Piombino in Tuscany, where he had fled after the attack that killed Borsellino and five of his police bodyguards in the Sicilian capital.

Signor Profeta, 52, is believed to be a member of the Madonia clan of the Cosa Nostra. He is also the brother-in-law of Enzo Scarantino, who is alleged to have supplied the Fiat 126 car used in the bombing.



A Georgian refugee from Abkhazia looking for lost relatives at the airport in Kutaisi, Georgia, yesterday

Refugees flee Abkhazian attack

FROM ELIF Kaban IN CHUBERI, GEORGIA

THOUSANDS of Georgian refugees are fleeing through the mountains from the rebel assault in the Black Sea region of Abkhazia.

Shio Mischuania was a law student in the regional capital Sukhumi, captured by Abkhazian separatists 12 days ago. "There were tanks and armoured vehicles on the road. The only way to get out was by swimming. We swam for hours. The whole town was burning and the snipers did not see us," he said.

Mr Mischuania was one of the refugees who fled the Sukhumi area through mountain passes and down into the region of Svanetia, where they waited for helicopters to take them to safety. Hundreds of people, some of whom had

walked for 15 days from Sukhumi, were sitting on the ground with bundles of possessions and suitcases tied with rope.

"Today, we had only 20 helicopters but we need lots more to find people scattered all over the mountains," said Javier Cantada, a Spanish doctor working for the French humanitarian group Médécine Sans Frontières.

A woman, her face caked in blood and her hands bandaged, lay quietly on a stretcher. "I was in a car fleeing the city. Gunmen stopped us and demanded my rings. Then they threw a grenade under the vehicle," she said.

The government says up to 150,000 refugees are fleeing the Abkhazian rebellion. Russia promised on Friday to

provide helicopters and trucks to help to evacuate them.

A line of people trudged down a dirt track leading from the mountains, telling of blizzards and thick snow. "We have been walking for 12 days," said a woman carrying a baby. Avtandil Gulashvili, a Red Cross doctor, said: "There are still at least 5,000 people in the mountains. The aid is not enough."

The wailing of women accompanying a funeral cortege mingled with gunfire from the mountains. Helicopter pilots said rebels were firing at fleeing people.

"She died an hour ago from a heart attack. She was my grandmother," said a weeping man next to one of half a dozen freshly-dug graves. (Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Serbs halt UN aid to besieged Muslims

Sarajevo: United Nations officials said relief convoys headed for two besieged Muslim towns were held up at the last moment yesterday by Serb authorities in Banja Luka. (Our Foreign Staff write)

Ray Wilkinson, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the convoys would stay in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Banja Luka for the night. "We are hoping to try again tomorrow." The two convoys were carrying 250 tonnes of aid for the Muslim towns of Maglaj and Tesanj. More than 100 days have passed since aid convoys last reached them.

In Zagreb, two Croatian army officers have been dismissed in an investigation into the massacre of Serb civilians in villages near Gospić in southwest Croatia, according to a defence ministry statement. It said the dismissals were intended to ensure an objective investigation into "possible violation of international war law".

A report by the UN last week accused Croatian troops of killing dozens of civilians in Serb-held villages last month.

Ferry sinks

Puan, South Korea: More than 170 people were feared dead after a ferry packed with holidaymakers, fishermen and islanders capsized and sank off the west coast of South Korea, 135 miles south of Seoul. Seventy-four passengers were rescued. (Reuters)

Martyrs named

Rome: The Pope yesterday beatified two bishops, eight priests and a school teacher who died as Roman Catholic martyrs in the first months of the 1936-9 Spanish Civil War. Beatification is usually the last stage before people are declared saints. (Reuters)

Doctor killed

Algiers: Suspected Muslim fundamentalists shot dead a prominent children's doctor inside an Algiers hospital, state media said. The victim, Djilali Ben Kechir, 52, had actively opposed the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front. (AFP)

German held

Nicosia: Iranian authorities said they had arrested a German for having illegal ties with the military, a phrase usually used to refer to spying. The Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored here, named him as Gerhard Alfred Buchmann. (AP)

Patten warned

Hong Kong: China has told Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, not to interfere in the case of Xi Yang, a Hong Kong-based reporter arrested on spying charges, and described the issue as a criminal case unrelated to normal reporting. (Reuters)

Mock battle

Yasounetsu: Japan's largest post-war military exercises ended with a mock air-land battle at an army range on Hokkaido island. The entire armed forces, 150,000 soldiers, 40,000 sailors and 45,000 airmen, took part. (Reuters)

Aliyev sworn in

Baku: Heidar Aliyev, 70, the former communist leader of Azerbaijan, has been sworn in as president of the Caucasus Mountain nation. He won nearly 99 per cent of the vote in presidential elections held on October 3. officials said. (AP)

Ship explodes

Galveston: The port of Houston, the United States' third largest, was closed to ocean-going traffic after explosions rocked an empty oil tanker, killing one man and leaving two others presumed dead at the mouth of the Houston ship channel. (Reuters)

Haughty Ballardur rides tide of popularity

■ His ascent has injected the first joker into the French political game for years and has upset the calculations of Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist who has long sought the presidency

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

A NEW puppet has joined the gang of political caricatures in the *Bébé* show, the French equivalent of *Spitting Image*. Chomdu, a jobless workman, pops up to praise Edouard Ballardur, his worship becoming all the more extravagant as the prime minister announces more bad news for the taxpayer.

Chomdu, whose name is a play on *chômeur* (an unemployed person), stands for the paradoxical chemistry between the Gaullist prime minister and the public, a love affair that has extended well beyond a honeymoon as he notches up six months in office.

More popular than any prime minister of the Fifth Republic, which marks its 35th anniversary this week, M.

Balladur has confounded the sound-bite age. France is being governed from the prime minister's office rather than by the presidency or in tandem with the president.

A patrician, rather haughty figure with a fondness for irony, fussy subordinates and Havana cigars, M. Ballardur has absolutely no common touch. He made minimal promises on taking office and talks of sacrifice and the long haul: he has raised taxes and cut pensions. Yet he sails serenely on in the polls with only the occasional bump.

The unflappable self-confidence and Edwardian manners, combining in a style that has given birth to a new adjective, *balladurien*, seem to be just what a disoriented France wants after a surfeit of



Edouard Ballardur has kept aloof from political squalls

rhetoric and political theatre. He could come unstuck in the quagmire over farm trade or with worsening unemployment, but with presidential elections only a year and a half away, the caretaker technocrat who affects little ambition has emerged as the favourite to succeed President Mitterrand.

His ascent has injected the first joker into the sclerotic French political game for

years and has upset the calculations of Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist who has been seeking the presidency since the 1970s. Instead of modestly holding the fort with a transitional team while waiting for M. Chirac in 1995, M. Ballardur has drawn power away from the lame-duck president, drawing a line under a decade of socialism. Unlike his prickly power-sharing with the hot-

headed M. Chirac in the mid-1980s, M. Mitterrand has adopted the role of constitutional monarch. He appreciates M. Ballardur's qualities and has done little beyond the odd skirmish to obstruct him. The prime minister is helped by the continuing paralysis of the defeated Socialists and by M. Mitterrand's supposed delight at scuppering Michel Rocard, his old left-wing rival.

The political world is deriving malicious delight this autumn from watching M. Chirac's strained protestations of support for "Dear Edouard". "Edouard Ballardur and I will never be competitors and I want this to be understood both by politicians and public opinion," M. Chirac insisted the other day. M. Ballardur replied with a self-effacing but double-edged declaration of loyalty in return. As Franz-Olivier Giesbert, editor of *Le Figaro*, notes in a new book, M. Ballardur, the immigrant son of a Levantine banking family, seems to live by an old Persian saying: "Why use poison if you can kill with honey?"

Embargo-busters defy US ban on travel to Cuba

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN HAVANA

A GROUP of 175 Americans flew to Cuba yesterday in open defiance of the US economic embargo against Cuba to protest against a 30-year-old ban on travel to the communist-ruled island.

The group left the morning after 100,000 Cuban exiles marched in Miami in support of the embargo, one of the largest anti-Castro demonstrations in three decades. The exiles marched through Miami's Little Havana calling for democracy in Cuba and a toughening of the embargo.

"The United States is the only Western democracy that treats travel as a crime," Medea Benjamin, a director of the San Francisco-based Freedom to Travel Campaign, said. "It makes no sense that we can travel almost anywhere in the world, but our government prevents us from visiting Cuba."

The US treasury warned the group before they left that they could face up to ten years in prison and a \$250,000 (£164,000) fine for making the illegal trip. "They will be in violation of US law and be subject to penalties," Bob Levine of the treasury said.

Two Cuban American members of Congress, Lincoln Diaz Balart and

Ileana Ros Lehtinen, both Florida Republicans, urged Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, to prosecute the embargo-busters. "Unless we prosecute those who violate the law, our policy is in danger of becoming a farce," they said in a joint statement.

During a week-long stay in Havana the group plans to deliver a donation of insulin to a children's hospital and help to build a US-Cuba friendship park. The group includes doctors, businessmen, housewives, children and pensioners. Pam Montanero, a mother of six from Alabama, said: "I do not want to go to jail or pay an enormous fine. But

there are times when you must stand up for what you believe in."

Under the embargo, only Americans travelling on government business, journalists, academic researchers and Cuban American exiles with relatives in Cuba are allowed to visit the island.

Groups opposing the embargo may apply for special licences to deliver humanitarian aid to Cuba. But recently groups have increasingly defied US law by refusing to seek a licence. In the past year, the group Pastors for Peace has made two unlicensed trips to Cuba with medical and other supplies.

So far the treasury department has

appeared reluctant to prosecute offenders, despite issuing regular threats. Latin American policy-makers in the Clinton administration are known privately to favour lifting at least some elements of the embargo, including the travel ban. But the White House is more anxious to avoid upsetting the vociferous right-wing Cuban-American lobby that is violently opposed to any softening of the embargo.

The travel ban was first imposed in 1963 by the J.F. Kennedy administration as part of the Trading With the Enemy Act. Briefly lifted by President Carter, it was reinstated when Ronald Reagan became president.

THE TIMES

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Young widows and yellow ribbons feed American anguish



Oakley: envoy seeking a deal in Mogadishu

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA has been here before, several times. Yellow ribbons of remembrance again decorate the country's front porches, especially in the town of Berlin, New Hampshire; body bags are arriving at Andrews Air Force Base awaiting a solemn ceremony; while at Arlington National Cemetery a young widow grieves for her soldier husband killed in Mogadishu.

And then there are the pictures, which triggered off the recent outrage: scenes of Somalis dragging the corpse of an American soldier through Mogadishu and the video of Michael Durant, who was captured during an ambush that left 15 Americans dead. Mr Durant, the boy from Berlin, New Hampshire, has been portrayed by the media as the all-American boy, any American fear of Somalia already fear Somalia.

■ The military debacle in Somalia is stirring bad memories for many Americans. They want the president to bring the boys home now

lia is another Vietnam. No less worrying for President Clinton is the fact that, despite his efforts to explain how Somalia policy in detail last week during a televised address from the Oval Office, most Americans disagree with him. They want the United States to withdraw either immediately, or within a very short time, but not within the six months outlined by the president.

Lurking behind America's latest foreign trauma are a number of past misadventures. For the American public, the conflict in Somalia invokes a series of overlapping pictures and memories. The bodybags and the funerals remind them of Vietnam. The

taped video of Warrant Officer Durant reminds them of Beirut; the yellow ribbons in New Hampshire, and the emotional appeals by Mr Durant's wife, Lorrie, remind them of several previous conflicts, but above all the Gulf War. President Clinton's Oval Office address reminds them of Jimmy Carter just before the 1980 election, which he lost after failing to free American hostages in Tehran.

The debacle in Somalia has highlighted this administration's confusion over foreign affairs. The question being asked the most over the weekend was not what has gone wrong with American policy, but why it has gone

wrong. The current policy, of doubling the American presence to more than 10,000 troops while setting a deadline of March 31 for withdrawal, is the basis for the deal reportedly being broached in Mogadishu by Robert Oakley, Mr Clinton's special envoy. The move has reluctant bipartisan support in Washington, but this support is above all a recognition that there is little else to be done, since an immediate withdrawal would amount to a real presidential nightmare: defeat-by-television.

The situation is the result of a series of policy mistakes, such as the raid on the headquarters of General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the Somali warlord, which more than anything else contributed to a "personalisation" of the conflict. The American operation, after all, started out last year as a well-defined intervention with the aim of alleviating starvation and then handing over the relief operation to the United Nations.

The US, which is now subtly blaming Admiral Howe, the UN commander, for the debacle, became drawn into a messy military operation against a crafty local chiefdom posing as a national hero resisting the "neo-imperialists". The original American aims became blurred.

Politically, the most important consequence is that the Clinton administration's brief love affair with UN-led multilateralism in foreign policy, with America playing a subordinate role, is all but at an end. In his recent speech to the UN general assembly, Mr Clinton outlined the need for peacekeeping operations to be better defined. However, the notion that America can simply give up its world leadership by seeking refuge under a multilateral UN umbrella is off the agenda. Mr Clinton and his foreign policy team will have to go back to the drawing board. They will be asking some fundamental ques-

tions, such as what constitutes strategic interests and how they can best be achieved. The Clinton administration, although successful in the Middle East, has shown inconsistency, not to say incoherence, on other foreign issues.

Warren Christopher, Secretary of State, insisted yesterday that the US was doing no more than shifting the focus of its policy from bunting down General Aidid to the search for a wider political solution. But this glosses over a much deeper question: the use, or misuse, of American troops. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, yesterday voiced concern about the despatch of American troops to Haiti, saying: "I do not think the case for this has yet been made."

Many more such doubts will be voiced about American military operations in the wake of the Somali fiasco.

Mogadishu rally, page 1

Israel vows Arab attacks will not hurt PLO accord

■ In the dangerous lull before the peace deal with Palestinians can be implemented, Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, is courting China's approval for the deal

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM
AND JONATHAN MIRSKEY, EAST ASIA EDITOR

ISRAELI indicated yesterday that worsening attacks by Arab hardliners would not diminish its determination to implement peace arrangements with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and to relinquish army authority in the occupied territories.

Yossi Sarid, the environment minister, said: "It must be understood that we are talking about a risky period because the old situation has disappeared and the new situation has not yet gone into effect."

Security forces continued yesterday to search for a possible third victim in an attack by Arab gunmen on Saturday that left two Israeli hikers dead in Wadi Qelt, near Jerusalem.

In a separate incident, the Israeli navy shot and killed an armed guerrilla riding a jet-ski boat on Saturday from Lebanon towards Israel, military officials said. The Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine took responsibility for the foiled seaborne raid, saying that a Syrian member of the front was killed by Israeli gunboats.

Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister of Israel, is in Peking today to bolster the long and often secret relationship between Israel and China.

Mr Rabin, who is also

defence minister, is the first Israeli prime minister to visit China. While in Peking he will sign an agreement permitting the airline El Al a weekly flight to Peking, thus providing a direct Israeli-Asia airline. He will also discuss agricultural matters — China has been employing Israeli expertise in making deserts suitable for agriculture for years — and aerospace sales.

It will also fall to Mr Rabin to ensure that China throws its weight behind those Arab countries and forces that support the recent accord between Israel and the PLO. Israel is conducting a diplomatic offensive in Asia and stopped discussions in Peking with North Korean diplomats only because the Americans asked it to do so.

The Rabin visit cements diplomatic ties that were formalised at the ambassador level in January last year when David Levy, who was then foreign minister, was received by Li Peng, the prime minister, who told Mr Levy that China "expressed its sympathy with the Jewish nation's sufferings in history. This nation is a diligent and wise nation, bringing out many well known thinkers."

The Levy visit brought to an end more than 40 years of overt public hostility from Peking, although in 1950 Israel had been among the first nations to recognise the people's republic. Although in public Peking has long condemned Israel as an imperialist persecutor of Arabs, the Chinese covertly bought Israeli weapons and agricultural expertise.

The weapons sales and service are the part of the Chinese-Israeli relationship continued by the meeting in Peking between Mr Rabin as defence chief and his counterpart, Chi Haotian.



Military cadets parading posters of Sun Yat-sen, founding father of the Republic of China, and, behind, of Chiang Kai-shek, former president of Taiwan, during a march yesterday marking the country's 82nd National Day. President Lee told spectators that Taiwan must break out of its world isolation

Parents of murdered white student forgive her killers

BY RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE parents of Amy Biehl, the murdered American research fellow, laid flowers yesterday at the place where she was hacked and beaten to death by radical black youths and forgave her killers.

"We have no anger or remorse with respect to Cape Town or South Africa. Our daughter was doing what she wanted to do. She was always involved in important things," Peter Biehl told reporters on the first full day of a week-long visit to South Africa.

Linda Biehl said her daughter, who died on the last day of her ten-month Fulbright research fellowship at the mainly black University of the Western Cape, would not have welcomed the attention being paid to her killing. "Amy would have been embarrassed," she added. "She said over and over again that there were hundreds of black people who lost their lives and on one even knew their names."

Mr Biehl, their other children and Amy's boyfriend, Scott Meiner, attended an emotional church service in Guguletu, the black township where she was killed on



Amy Biehl: fuss would have embarrassed her

August 26 while taking black university colleagues home after a farewell party. Seven youths have been accused of killing her; they will be tried in Cape Town later this year.

The family went from the church to the place where Amy, 26, was murdered as she begged for mercy from a group of youths shouting the radical Pan Africanist Congress slogan "One settler, one bullet". Accompanied by about 300 supporters the family took turns to place small bunches of flowers against the wooden fence where she died.

Mrs Biehl said she had met friends of her daughter whom she had seen on a video film of her cremation service, adding: "To look at people's faces, to touch their hands was an incredible experience." Mr Biehl said of yesterday's service: "It was very beautiful. I think we came away feeling very good about the quality of the company our daughter kept."

Yesterday South African whites were warned to avoid the Transkei homeland as the government sought to justify the killing of five youths by troops in a raid on an alleged safe house used by the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress, in Umtata, the Transkei capital, on Friday.

In a statement issued in Pretoria, the foreign affairs department said that if whites had to drive through the territory they should form convoys and travel only in daylight. If they encountered any form of disturbance, they should turn back.

Moi pins hopes on resumption of aid

FROM REUTER IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Moi of Kenya, celebrating 15 years in power, said yesterday the West was about to resume aid, which was suspended to force him to implement radical political and economic reforms.

"We have faced severe economic and social difficulties since the West denied us aid in 1991," President Moi told a 35,000-strong crowd at an anniversary rally in a Nairobi stadium. "The matter is now about to be resolved. Aid may

be resumed," he said. The president was speaking on the eve of the arrival in Nairobi of a joint World Bank and International Monetary Fund mission to review measures Kenya has taken for economic reform.

President Moi said that Kenya had met the West's political demands by holding the first multiparty elections in 26 years, in which he beat a divided opposition to "win another five-year term."

Bhutto wins vital votes in Punjab

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN LAHORE

BENAZIR Bhutto and her allies captured Punjab in nationwide provincial polls on Saturday, virtually clinching her return as prime minister in Islamabad three years after being ousted by the army.

Like federal elections three days earlier, the result was a cliffhanger. The Muslim League, headed by Mian Nawaz Sharif, captured most seats but Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party claimed a majority because of support from independents and a breakaway league faction.

It was a remarkable performance by Miss Bhutto, who hardly dared hope that she might beat Mr Sharif, a wealthy Punjabi industrialist, on his home turf. Her party easily won the big southern province of Sindh, her home base.

Had she lost Punjab she could not have expected to head the federal government in Islamabad for long. More than half the Pakistani population of 120 million live there and it is the richest region.

Mr Sharif and allies are expected to form the government in the tribal-dominated North West Frontier Province. Independent candidates took the majority of seats in the sparsely populated desert province of Baluchistan.

Miss Bhutto claims to have support from independent MPs and small parties that will give her around 110 votes in the 217-member National Assembly in Islamabad. Despite her narrow victory in Punjab, she will still head a vulnerable administration.

Death of American girl blamed on Beavis and Butt-head, scum of teenage life

Cult cartoon stirs fear and loathing

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

IN THE wake of Madonna, rap musician Ice-T and even Popeye, two more characters from the world of popular culture now stand accused of polluting young American minds.

They are the eponymous anti-heroes of *Beavis and Butt-head*, a popular cartoon broadcast by the MTV cable network, which features a pair of brain-numbed adolescents who spend their time inanely giggling, strumming invisible guitars to rock music and setting fire to anything they can find.

Last week a five-year-old boy in Dayton, Ohio, ignited his bed clothes with a cigarette lighter after watching the pyromaniac antics of Beavis and Butt-head, according to his mother. The boy's younger sister, two, died in the ensuing blaze.

"When you take a child in

the formative years and you get these cartoon characters saying it's fun to play with fire, this is going to stick in that kid's mind," said Harold Sigler, the local fire chief.

Beavis and Butt-head represent the scum of teenage life, resolutely crude and revolting. They mistreat animals, tell dirty jokes, sniff glue and generally cause and revel in maximum havoc.

In short, they accurately reflect the stupidities of modern American teenage life at its most extreme and they have rapidly become the most popular programme on MTV, spawning a wealth of merchandise from T-shirts and dolls to CDs. A full-length cartoon film, animated by Mike Judge, 30, is now in production.

As their names indicate, the cartoon is intended as a



Resolutely revolting, Beavis and Butt-head reflect the stupidities of teenage life at their most extreme

parody of the lives of many young Americans (they first emerged from a festival of "sick and twisted" cartoons last year), but the obnoxious pair have developed a cult following among juveniles for whom they plainly represent a convenient form of rebellion.

Beavis and Butt-head speak involving regular use of vomiting noises as well as consistent "political incorrectness", has become de rigueur in many school play-

grounds. The cartoon pair are direct descendants of Wayne and Garth, the characters from the film *Wayne's World*, who also lived for rock music and adolescent brainlessness, and proved to be box-office triumphs.

But what began as a satirical joke for young adults is now, according to many parents and teachers, staple television fare for young children who seek to imitate the cartoon pair's behaviour. Schools in South Dakota last week banned clothing and other items bearing the likeness of the miscreants.

Last Friday an MTV spokesman said the company would "re-examine issues regarding *Beavis and Butt-head*". "Responsibly programming MTV has always been our top priority," he said. But responsibility, to quote Wayne and Garth, is what Beavis and Butt-head are all about. Not.

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The glory that was Gloria

What does a princess do when she is down to her last seven castles?

Roger Boyes
reports

Almost 500 years of history and over 1,000 years of Harley Davidson will go under the hammer tomorrow, as one of Europe's most controversial young princesses sells off some family treasure to pay the German taxman.

It will be difficult to find a more poignant example of the financial decline of the aristocracy than this auction, organised by Sotheby's on behalf of the 33-year-old former punk and frenzied partygoer, Princess Gloria of Thurn and Taxis. Princes and dukes whose titles crowd the pages of the *Almanach de Gotha* are now taking their place alongside car workers and foundrymen as frontline victims of recession.

Princess Gloria, of course, is not exactly on her uppers. But she might in the coming nine days of bid and counter bid, spare a thought for 65-year-old Prince Emanuel von Hohenzollern, who can no longer afford servants to maintain his sprawling manor house in Hechingen in southern Germany. He lives in the attic and spends his day trying to keep the rest of the place clean. "I have to do the dusting, scrub the floors and wash my own shirts — that's how far things have come," he says.

Princess Gloria has a servant problem, too, but there is no risk yet of her having to do the washing up. A few years back — soon after her marriage in 1980 to a prince 35 years her senior — Princess Gloria needed a staff of 120 to run the 500-room castle in Regensburg and its vast hunting estate. The family seat is twice the size of Buckingham Palace.

Now the staff has been whittled down a bit. Certainly, after this week's sale it will no longer be necessary to employ the servant whose sole task was to wind up every one of the castle's clocks.

For the past month the



Sic transit Gloria... the Princess of Thurn and Taxis will have to get by without the servant whose sole task was to wind up the castle's clocks

auction lots have been crammed into the castle's rooms: 3,500 items of furniture, including 250 cabinets, 400 chairs and 150 tables. Paintings, prints, sepia brown photographs, some silver left over from the last great Thurn and Taxis sale three years ago, 75,000 bottles of wine and two Harley Davidson motorbikes. Many of the pieces do not belong in the Regensburg castle at all. They were loaded there after shedding some other castles and manor houses.

Since 1920 the Thurn and Taxis family has divested 25 castles and the princess is down to her last seven. The first crisis came when her husband, Prince Johannes Baptista de Jesus Maria Louis Miguel Friedrich Bonifazus Lamoral von Thurn and Taxis, died of a heart attack in 1990. His estate was said to be worth £1 billion but nobody could be quite sure

because his accounts were in a mess. He left death duties of £20 million and debts estimated at £220 million. This week's sale, say Sotheby's, should fetch in the region of £5.6 million.

But it is the bargain basement aspect of the sale that is most salubrious. Last week many hundreds of ordinary Germans thronged through the rooms of the so-called Saint Emmeram castle and seriously considered snapping up such recession bargains as a cocktail shaker, price guide between £15 and £30. There was a whiff of revolution in the air, as if the visitors were inspecting Enkeldi Maron's shoes or some hastily vacated imperial Russian bed chamber.

Germany has a profusion of princes and princesses, dukes and duchesses, margraves and margravines, dating back

to the Holy Roman Empire. The monarchy was abolished under the post-war German constitution but the tabloids — and provincial snobbery — kept the aristocracy in the public view. Now there seems to be a popular feeling that the

There seems to be a popular feeling that the nobility is paying for the good times

nobility is paying for the good times — the sinucres in banks and galleries, the free club memberships, the boardroom back scratching.

Aristocrats are having to scramble to hang on to their wealth. Joachim Egon, Prince of Fuerstenberg, has, for example, been negotiating to sell

his private collection of 15,000 ancient autographs, including original letters signed by Mozart.

Prince Karl Friedrich von Hohenzollern, meanwhile, has registered his historical name as a trademark for a line of marketing products such as chocolates, clothes and shaving cream.

Some aristocrats sneer at their money-grubbing kin. There is even said to be a recession-proof racket in handing on titles. One princess, whose noble family has to

remain anonymous for legal reasons, has been adopting adult women and endowing her new daughters with the family name on the assumption that they would thus find it easy to land a wealthy husband. After the marriage, the adopted daughters are presumably expected to show

their gratitude to their mother.

This is all in the realm of harmless commerce, the German equivalent of setting up a safari park in the grounds. In Germany, however, the fall from grace is shocking to those who believe that the new united Germany could somehow take up where the Kaisers left off and find a social role once again for jobless princes.

Once Sotheby's has disposed of the latest batch of family treasure, Princess Gloria plans to convert a wing of the castle into a conference centre. The defence ministry has already shown an interest in using the castle.

Among all the media hustle of the past week, there was one indication that the princess felt some sentimental attachment to the family seat and to her old life. As onlookers fingered two ornate ice buckets, a slip of paper fell to the floor. "Princess to keep," it said; some baubles, it seemed, can simply never be sold.

Old Beaky's nose job

Scientific evidence, as old Bat Ears used to say, is there to be examined, not swallowed. I am grateful to him, and also to his colleague Brillo-Head, who used to stress the need for accurate measurement: and to the many lanky, tubby or red-nosed pedagogues who taught me to look at the world through sceptical eyes.

Otherwise I might have accepted without question the startling claim that teachers are flocking to cosmetic surgeons to get their faces seen to, because they cannot take the nicknames inflicted on them by their pupils. Assorted Baldies, Beakies and Jug-Lugs have been queuing up at clinics. Had I

ing herself fearlessly as Mrs Carsey or Miss Nutter. There is a measurable drop in the chutzpah of school-teachers.

And something must be done to stop it. Too long the victims of government attacks, too long the bearers of the brunt of social change and family collapse, teachers have more pressing worries than whether their classes call them Lardy or Skellybones. If they have any spare money they should not be spending it on new noses: they should spend it on exotic holidays or drink to cheer them up.

Surgery will never work anyway. For one thing, any teacher whose nose mysteriously shrank over the summer holidays would have to change schools as well, else he would never hear the last of it in the staff room, let alone in class. And for another, children always did inhabit a world of lurid caricature. They find all adults bizarre. I happened to read the report at the beginning of a weekend in West



LIBBY PURVES

However, since the news was fed to us by a private cosmetic hospital and supported by a clinic which does hair transplants, I am inclined to shave a bit off its credibility. Especially since the figure we are working on is 60 or 70 a year out of a profession of 400,000. Given that at least 50 per cent of the human race is physically imperfect, the reassuring conclusion is that 204,920 teachers are either unaware that their charges call them Baldies or Boglin-Features; or else that they are putting up with it with the same grace and humour they always did.

However 60 or 70 a year is quite a large number to come from a relatively low-paid profession; and if it is a thin end of a wedge, it still needs thinking about. There may not be an army of uncouth teachers rushing towards the surgeons' knives as yet, but there is clearly a small advance party including the geography master nicknamed Nozemambique cited by the clinic spokesman, and the jowly woman who had a facelift because her French class called her Hotel Dewlap.

Moreover, there is other evidence of personal insecurity within the profession: at least one teacher-training college has recently advised students called Ramsbottom or Nuts to work under a pseudonym. This piece of advice deeply shocked those of us who remember the bluff old days when no teacher thought twice about striding into a class of 12-year-old boys and introduc-

Cork with an old school friend, and we passed the entire drive from Mizen Head to Ballydeoban in reminiscing happily about various teachers who looked respectively like a Dutch doll, Emperor Hirohito, a toad, and a child molester (he was, actually; only we were damn good at detecting it).

Justly, we remembered Brunnhilde the Demon Mar, the nervous Latin mistress on whose car we wrote "I've got a toga in my tank" and the maths teacher with halitosis and mad green marbled eyes. And after ten miles or so we realised that we were actually rather fond of these freaks, and worked not badly for them.

If teachers today do find the ruthless scrutiny of their pupils too much to bear, the fault is not in their faces but in the ethos and discipline of schools: in huge-mixed ability classes, crumbling buildings, ever increasing workload and the burden of governmental insults and half-baked, hurriedly invented new schemes and tests. It may be these things which have made teachers feel suddenly naked to the slings and arrows of scornful youth; and if so, the surgeon's knife is not the answer.

If Bat Ears had had them pinned back we would have switched our attention to his Bytcream. But Bat Ears didn't, because he knew he was in charge. So did we.

TOMORROW

In the first of two essays from his new book, Stephen Hawking asks: in a world where everything is determined by the laws of science, can we have free will?

SIMPSON'S SUITS ARE NOW CUT A LITTLE MORE GENEROUSLY.



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Kate Muir joins the voyeurs at one of America's endless chat shows

If television is the window of America's soul, an analysis of daytime broadcasting indicates the nation is in need of a good psychotherapist. Once, there were occasional talk shows dotted between re-runs of *Son of Lasse* and *The Waltons*, but now daytime television has become one seamless, and seamy, confessional.

For nine consecutive hours a day, Monday to Friday, the American couch potato can watch Oprah-style talk shows, one after another. There is no escape. The viewer may start at 9am with "Women who visit erotic dance clubs", followed at 10am by Joan Rivers on "Male calendar models" and Montel Williams on "Larger size persons and romance". By lunchtime, it is "Romance between prison guards and inmates", and the afternoon is spent enjoying tales of "Being stalked", "He stole his sister's husband", and "Surrogate parenthood", ending with the televiewer's favourite, Oprah Winfrey, on "Violence in teen relationships".

Clearly, public debate on moral themes now takes place in the television studio rather than the church, so this reporter began a day's tour of the talk shows at 9am by slipping unnoticed into the Joan Rivers audience queue at CBS. The warm-up lady made the audience practise clapping at double time in order to create the impression of multitudes, and taught us to shout in unison: "From New York — Joan Rivers!" It emerged that Rivers' fans had come from all over America to share this moment. "I watch her every day," said a middle-aged woman from St Louis in Missouri, "and now I'm actually here!" She re-applied her Avon lipstick for close-ups, and confessed she had arranged a special holiday in New York. Another man had come from Israel. "She's Jewish, you know," he said.

Joan (by now we were all on first-name terms) marched out to rapturous applause and we marvelled at the distance between her high heels and the hem of her tiny skirt. The theme of the day was "Enjoying your divorce", and Joan opened by smashing a wedding cake with a mallet and throwing the plastic bride and groom over her shoulder.

Half way to hell



Oprah Winfrey: the most popular talk show host

We got the message. Ivana Trump came on in a lilac and gold trouser suit to reinforce the message. She no longer referred to Mr Trump, the magnate, as "The Donald" but instead dismissed him derogatorily as "my ex".

Joan felt that divorce had helped Ivana blossom as a person. "Did you ever think you'd be a bigger star than Donald one day?" asked Joan. "Look how you're doing now compared to five years ago. My God, it's like, 'Who was that dumb bitch?'" Ivana admitted that she had tended to do Mr Trump and her children's bidding, but now she was free to express herself. "Free to Love" in fact, which was the title of her new novel. She plugged it heavily, and also mentioned her "House of Ivana" clothing line sold on the Home Shopping Channel.

"I want it to be like House of Chanel or House of Dior, yes, but I want the prices to be affordable for every woman." At this, the audience cheered.

Next up was a woman advocating divorce ceremonies to mark "the closure" of the relationship. She and her ex-husband had enjoyed a divorce ceremony, with her minister officiating, witnessed by her children, and they had a party and a cake. After a pause for advertisements, an avvil appeared in the studio, and a jewellery-maker announced this was for divorcees who wanted to smash their wedding rings, and make them into "a pin or a pendant" — something more appropriate. Maureen, disastrously married for just three months, hammered her gold band into a blob. The ceremony was rather medieval — the only difference being the public exorcism of demons had been replaced by the exorcism of ex-husbands.

A few hours later on the Montel Williams show, we had moved from exorcism to self-flagellation. The subject was "Dysfunctional families". Vickie, an ex-prostitute, read a letter of confession to her son, apologising for leaving him. We all clapped when Sherrone, the son, said: "I forgive you, Mom."

We snuffled when the 13-year-old son of an ex-drug addict said he loved his dad so much he wanted to go with him if he died. The father gulped and cried. "They may want to forgive," said Montel, our host, "but the hardest part for these kids is to let out the anger against their parents." Montel brought out a therapist to help the children get over "the denial of anger", but his last words were cut out by a soap powder advertisement.

There is a growing appetite for voyeurism camouflaged by pop psychology. Well-fed, suburban Americans can watch the suffering, indulge in a little *schadenfreude*, and revel in the safety of their own lives. We voyeurs arrived at the Phil Donahue show at the end of the day, exhausted by clapping and emoting. Here, at last, the line between television studio and church melted. "To hell and back" was our theme, and former hospital patients confessed to out-of-body experiences and being

torn apart by demons during operations. As the debate was whittled down to "Does God exist?", Phil, our host, ran through the audience during a commercial break yelling: "Any Catholics here?" When a group piped up, he mimed blessing them with holy water, shaking his radio mike above each of their heads.

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MILAN

From crafted trouser suits all the way to Chinese-inspired workwear, the message from Italy is mostly minimalist — not to say minuscule

Spring will be here shortly

People in the fashion world spend their time wishing their lives away. On the second day of the spring/summer 1994 preview collections, which began in Milan last week, Glenda Bailey, the editor of *Marie Claire* magazine, was in a quandary. Having seen several shows which presented short hemlines as the dominant theme, Ms Bailey wondered how she would get through the winter still wearing long. She was entranced by what she had seen on the catwalks, and wanted to be part of it now. She couldn't wait another six months for the opportunity to dress like the models in their short, floppy dresses. The fashion bug had bitten.

For most people the spring/summer collections are a crystal ball glimpse into the future. These shows will govern the marketing strategies of stores the world over, and will therefore influence, and inspire, the way in which you dress next summer.

For the fashion cognoscenti the collections are not only a tempting teaser, but also act as confirmation of their ability to predict the direction fashion is taking. Working within the same industry as the designers, being open to the same cultural and sociological stimuli, there are few fashion editors who would have been



Fashion
IAN R. WEBB

surprised by what they saw last week on the Milan catwalks. It is our business to be in tune with the designers, and to expect certain trends.

We could have predicted punk, ethnic mix, military, pretty pastels, romance, and yes, even short hemlines. What editors cannot, of course, imagine is how each designer will interpret these vague ideas. This season was no different, with each designer doing their version of the little dress — the singularly most important item in the wardrobe next season.

Rifat Ozbek even opened his show with what he calls a "Very Little Black Dress", followed by a "Tiny Brown Slip Dress" and then a "Small Navy Slip Dress". The majority of Ozbek's designs were minuscule, but will turn out to be hugely influential. He mixed empire-line mini dresses, slim fitting inside-out jackets, and long peasant dirndl skirts. He cut a dress like a shirt, short at the front with the tail trailing the floor, and he presented three new colours: skin, nude and flesh — these were everywhere in Milan, alternatively referred to as blush, peach, or even light tan.

Ozbek also threw in tracksuit stripes for good measure, as did another British designer, Katharine Hamnett. Hamnett's collection was one of her strongest to date, and was equally eclectic. Her World Cup football strip was shown alongside third world gauzy, sun-bleached fabrics, tobacco pin-stripe trouser suits and ivory self-striped jackets and long A-line skirts. De-



GENNY: a new American designer and thoroughly modern feel, simultaneously both long and short.

lightly mis-matched army fatigues and shimmering Lurex and bugle beads for evening were typical of the new visions for 1994.

This redefined aesthetic emerged at every show. Even Valentino's Oliver collection, which did little to waver from a central nautical theme, saw short, strict pinafore dresses worn over billowing organza shirts, while flowy chiffon trousers and ballgown skirts were teamed with knitwear.

The Milan shows were full of such fortuitous mixes. At Prada, flighty georgines were shown with tough-looking leather. At Jil Sander, pristine white outfits shown for the day found themselves covered in diaphanous, shimmering silver or metallic taffeta after

dark. Gucci sewed soft suede sleeves into an elegantly tailored jacket.

The Industria collection by Fabrizio Ferre is the perfect answer for the woman who seeks the maximum impact from her wardrobe with the minimum fuss. Long wrap skirts, and jackets which are little more than shirts make sense. Double georgine shift dresses are effortless.

There are few designers who have not heard fashion's new pulse beat. Krizia looked fresh and less fussy than usual, while Gianfranco Ferre deconstructed his signature organza shirt, leaving just the collar attached to a swirling scarf. He also simplified his silhouettes and created dazzling sequin-striped evening wear which had a sportswear base, as did his sweater look for after dark which integrated crisp white cuffs and collars. MaxMara and Sportmax showed how to make the new multi-fabric layering work for everyday. Sleek trouser suits, tiny pleated babydoll dresses, voluminous kaftans, and the

palest powder-coloured suede and printed chiffon mixed happily together.

The assortment of styles shown by Gianni Versace did not always marry so well. When he is great, there are few who can match his bold ingenuity. When he is not, few can comprehend the results.

Taking punk as his central theme he slashed leather, knit, and wool, linking the safety pins. This worked best as long lacy evening dresses, and sharp leather jackets and mini-skirts. His mini togas were sadly not such a success, sharing a passing resemblance to the T-shirts worn by Ibiza-bound blonde holiday-makers, only the knots on the thigh were missing.

Dolce e Gabbana threaten to tie themselves in knots with the numerous strands which make up their collection, yet somehow the whole inevitably gels. From the first little black dresses, to the finale of Chaplinesque black and white suits,

with all the costume drama and ethnic fancy which came in-between, the collection was a clear winner.

Another designer who must be celebrating this season is Giorgio Armani. Both his Emporio and mainline collection showed the designer at his best. Fluid trouser suits, floppy georgette dresses under fluted jackets, and waistcoats worn with dramatic dirndl skirts were all given a touch of eastern promise. Soft sun-bleached colours and even softer fabrics. His mainline collection was almost mystical. Indeed, it is a mystery how something as excessive as an elaborately beaded trouser suit or evening dress can look so pure and understated. Armani makes it look so easy.

There is much I had expected of fashion for spring/summer 1994, and specifically from Milan, so it came as a genuine surprise to find myself rapturously applauding the classic house of Genny, because in the past the labels have produced a worthy selection of clothes, no more, no less. This season, American designer Rebecca Moses has taken over as design director and has given the house a thoroughly modern feel.

The beautifully crafted collection began with ivory-coloured minimalist dresses and trouser suits and followed fashion's lead through Chinese-inspired workwear, simultaneously long and short dresses in pastel shirting, and finished in a crescendo of pastel lace, organza, chiffon, and bugle beads which were the best example of modern, spare glamour in Milan.

Not to mention one very little dress made of layers of bluish chiffon. As it flipped down the catwalk, for a moment I could understand exactly Ms Bailey's dilemma.



SPORTMAX: looking sleek



VERSACE: bold ingenuity



DOLCE e GABBANA: suit



PRADA: looking flighty



OZBEK: influential

HOTLINE

● PARTIES began and ended Milan fashion week in as idiosyncratic a style as the designers who threw them. One guest went to Gianni Versace's punk dinner in a tiny vest and even smaller mini kilt. Maybe not so shocking, except this guest was well over 6ft tall and male.

● HAIR 1. The smartest hair was as short as the hemlines. Following Madonna's lead, many of the models sported a clipped, boyish style. Think Vita Sackville-West.

● CELEBRATING a decade as a designer, Franco Moschino held a retrospective show with his usual tongue-in-cheek style. Models paraded outfits spanning his career, including his infamous "Waist of Money" suit, and bin-liner ballgowns.

● WHAT might once have been considered the height of tackiness — ankle socks with high shoes — turned up on every catwalk. Gianni Versace even showed them with mules.

● HAIR 2. The only hair accessory on the swanky catwalks was the plain, old-fashioned kirby grip. Worn at eyebrow level to push the hair off the face. Even the short-haired girls wore them.

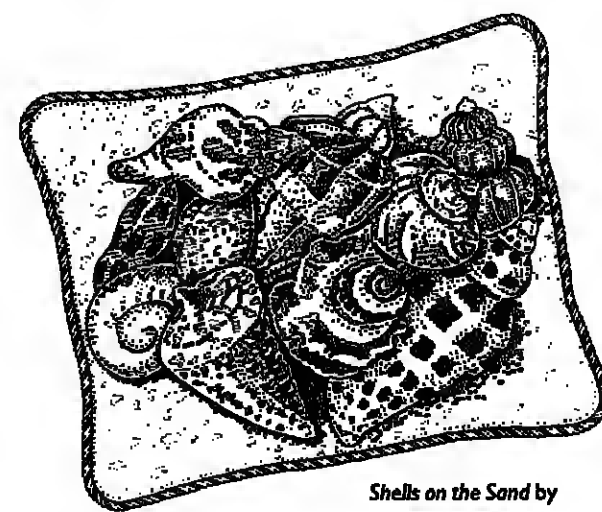
PHOTOGRAPHS
BY
CHRIS MOORE

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Shells on the Sand by
KARRE PASSETT

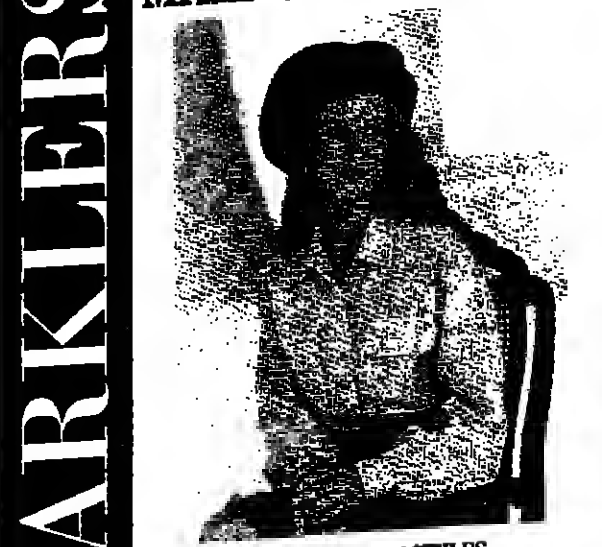
Shells are a favourite of Kaffe Fassett's. They have appeared in his knitwear, on his needlework carpets, on fabrics and wallpapers and here, for the first time, he has used them for a cushion. They are drawn with precision and clarity and stitched in soft, neutral shades. The shells themselves are a mixture of stone and pale dove grey, pepper and salt, ash-blond, ivory, faded amber, bay, fawn and silver frost and they sit on a background of pearl grey. They are subtle and restrained colours that would fit in well anywhere.

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Matthew Parris



Politicians of the same party can hate each other like they hate nothing, and nobody, outside it

If a war hero were to write his memoirs — recollections of the famous battles he had won — and the book when it appeared turned out to contain very little about his engagements with the enemy, but to centre upon his disputes with his comrades-in-arms, you might think that rumour. If the diaries of an intrepid mountaineer, conqueror of some hitherto unclimbed Himalayan peak, were found to include almost nothing about the mountain but to concern themselves with hatreds and rivalries between companions within the tent, you might be disappointed.

But three weeks at three successive party conferences in Torquay, Brighton and Blackpool, followed by a weekend of revelations about the contents of Lady Thatcher's memoirs, have led me to a gloomy conclusion. It is that the closer you get to the top, the more completely your energies will be consumed, not with the achievement of your external goal, but with fear and loathing of your colleagues.

I searched the extract from Lady Thatcher's memoirs printed in yesterday's *Sunday Times* for references to the Labour party. It hardly features. In her mind at least, it seems, the real battle was going on elsewhere. Yet the period in question was one during which Labour was fast catching up with the Tories in the opinion polls.

Who can doubt that Neil Kinnock's memoirs would, likewise, concentrate on his battles within his own party over the same period. And isn't the calculation now uppermost in John Major's mind the decision whether to attack half his cabinet head-on, or pick them off one by one?

This leads (for us journalists) to a strange air of unreality at party conferences. They are a huge confidence trick upon the ordinary party member who pays to attend them. These people, the workers, believe that the battle is with the enemy — the other parties. All the rhetoric delivered from the platform encourages that belief. Rival political movements are lambasted, to applause, while the practical achievements and promises of one's own party are explained and trumpeted.

But the main concern of the politicians on the platform lies neither with plans for government nor the battle with rival parties. The real battle is being fought on the platform itself, between them. Only in the half raising of eyebrows and in coded references and unattributable remarks made to journalists behind the podium does any hint of this battle emerge, amid all the verbiage, all the sound and

fury, which is the ostensible focus of the debates. The press knows this, and the politicians know that we know. We know they know we know, and they know that too. Each successive speaker tears into "the media" for "inventing" internal battles, and draws cheers from party workers as he claims the essential unity of the party in the fight against socialism/ liberal democracy/ the Tory government. But as he shakes his fist at the press gallery and the party workers roar, we can almost see him wink. We do not mind. We know he has to do it. We shall have a little chat with him later in the bar. He and we are really on the same side. It is they out there — the ordinary party members whom even now he is addressing as dear friends — who are excluded. It is his colleagues who are the enemy.

I can testify to the fact (and a glance at Lady Thatcher's memoirs confirms it) that even hardened journalists who have been war correspondents in their time are shocked by the depth of the hatred felt by British politicians for colleagues in their own parties, and by their preparedness, off the platform, to express this hatred to people they barely know.

What I write would be regarded, if read by any of my press colleagues in the Westminster lobby, as so commonplace as to be hardly worth saying. But I have up with the Tories in the opinion polls.

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International money is moving out of the reach of governments, taking with it vast tax revenues

Down and out on trillionaire's row

This week, my family has been going through a minor revolution which my two-year-old granddaughter, Maud, correctly describes as "Jacob. Plane. Hong Kong". My second son has started a new job with Lloyd George Asset Management, an investment firm which specialises in the Asian developing economies. I look forward to visiting him, particularly as Hong Kong is an ideal place for journalism: it is a focus of world development, a city which helps one to understand the future, much as New York might have done in the 1930s, or London in the 1970s. It also faces Chinese sovereignty in 1997, less than four years away.

One part of the Hong Kong story has been widely reported, though I doubt if it has yet sunk into the European consciousness. Jacques Delors certainly does not understand what is happening. There is a great swing of the pendulum of wealth and development from Europe and North America to Asia. At present some 850 million people — 15 per cent of the world's population — live in advanced industrial societies, mainly in Europe, North America and Japan. In a generation's time, when Jacob would be 50, the Asian continent, including both China and India, will be widely industrialised. The advanced nations will number around three billion, and will be about half the world's population.

This story has been told, though I do not think it has been understood. It could be the greatest, most rapid and most extraordinary economic movement in the history of mankind. Yet there is another aspect of what is happening which has hardly been written about, but may be almost equally far-reaching in its impact on society, economic and technological changes have destroyed national control of international money. Of course there is a vast amount of national capital, but increasingly the

world's capital is going offshore — much of it has already gone. Once it goes offshore it can no longer be taxed, either as capital or as income. Just as wealth is swinging to Asia, capital is swinging away from national jurisdictions.

Ten days ago I was having dinner with a Hong Kong Chinese friend who used a vivid phrase about the demand for capital in China. He said it was "like a black hole". The history of China since 1945 has meant that the wealthy Chinese have had to live outside their country: only in the past few years have resident Chinese been able to accumulate significant capital. The largest individual providers of capital for the new Chinese development will be those who have always held their funds offshore, in regimes where they are subject to little or no control and pay little or no tax. As China grows, these funds are not going to be brought back under state control. Nor will the Chinese government want to alienate the capital China needs. This vast industrial investment depends on offshore capital, and will remunerate that capital proportionately.

Offshore capital naturally grows much more rapidly than taxed capital, because it can reinvest the whole of its gains and income. The compound arithmetic is quite dramatic. A successful hedge fund manager, such as George Soros's Quantum Fund, has to grow at a rate of 20 per cent per annum or more. If it compounds at 20 per cent, the fund

doubles in 3.8 years and triples in six. A similarly invested onshore fund, paying tax on its income and gains at an average of 40 per cent, would have only 12 per cent left to reinvest. That would double every six years. But tripling grows much faster than doubling. In 38 years an offshore fund, at this rate of compound growth, would become a thousand times its original sum, so a \$1 million fund would be worth \$1,000 million.

Of course some will fail or be dispersed, but not all.

Governments, even when they work together, have already lost control of the finance of the world. The double defeat of the European exchange-rate mechanism in 1992 and 1993 showed that unregulated capital, much of it untaxed, is more powerful than the central banks that makes fixed exchange rates impossible to maintain under attack. The IMF, which used to control the world exchange system, is now an irrelevant talking shop. Even the Bundesbank has lost control of the German economy: Germany is now the sick man of Europe, and Europe the sick continent of the world.

Electronic communications have wholly changed the nature of finance, and removed the limitations of geographical location. The second largest stock market in the world, the American Nasdaq, has no physical location. It is simply an electronic network. Electronic communications mean that people can control financial operations from any place on earth that suits them; that must be a country which will not try to tax their capital or its growth.

There has always been some international capital, and there has always been some untaxed capital, but the world has never seen anything quite like this before. Governments are unlikely to recover their control of finance; advances in encryption are even holding out the promise of completely secure elec-

tronic communication systems that tax authorities cannot penetrate. Many governments, including the British, have already abandoned any attempt to tax the capital of foreigners; indeed many advanced countries are now attractive tax havens for all citizens except their own. Only the US government tries to tax its own citizens wherever they live in the world, and even for ten years after they have renounced their citizenship. That can only damage the United States.

Any future attempts to restore capital controls or regain taxing power are quite implausible. Capital taxes of all kinds, and taxes on income from capital, have already become voluntary taxes for all individuals owned major funds. Compound interest ensures that funds will grow under zero tax regimes and decline relatively under high tax regimes; that is difficult news for the high-tax industrialised countries. American and European welfare systems which depend on high tax may well become insolvent. In the new world "tax the rich" has ceased to be an option: the rich are not going to sit around waiting to be taxed.

Later in the 1990s, these issues will come onto the British political agenda. The advanced countries may all have to move towards tax systems which are designed to attract capital by freedom from taxation. Income tax itself may cease to be viable; its yield will certainly be greatly eroded. Taxes will have to be levied at the point of expenditure not at the point of acquisition of funds. For the moment — as Blackpool showed — we shall try to muddle through. Perhaps when Chris Patten comes back from Hong Kong he can explain to his senior colleagues how the modern world economy really works. The divorce between nations and capital breaks the 20th century's welfare contract between capital and labour; it changes the world.

William Rees-Mogg

A swing to the don't knows

Peter Riddell found a vacuum at all three party conferences

British politics returns from the seaside to Westminster in an unstable and messy state. Little has been clarified, let alone resolved. The Tory party has, for the moment, preferred nervous unity behind John Major to further public splits, though there have been ideological rumblings from the right. John Smith has won an important symbolic victory on internal party democracy but at a cost in promises to the unions which may delay modernisation of Labour's approach. The Liberal Democrats, who had most to celebrate in the summer, seemed to be marginal on the main policy issues. No party has yet seized the tactical initiative or the imagination of voters. The shape of post-Thatcher politics remains as cloudy as before.

That is partly a result of long one-party rule. Each party has become used to the habits of government or opposition. But despite ample signs of staleness, the Tories have at least retained their instinct for self-preservation. Most ministers are more determined to hang onto their posts than all but a handful of their Labour shadows are to gain office.

That explains the apparently contradictory stance taken by Baroness Thatcher. Most declarations of loyalty are mere tactical conveniences; applicable only before previously "unforeseen circumstances" intervene (as they did in November 1990). Lady Thatcher seems genuine in her backing for Mr Major, not just because of what he said on Friday, but because of her growing worries that her legacy is under threat. She watched some of the Labour conference on television, remarking that the party had become "interesting again". It was not intended as a compliment. These fears have reinforced her belief that the Tories cannot afford another leadership upheaval. Whatever her doubts about Mr Major, she still backs him. She is no fan of Kenneth Clarke (whose stock is on hold until after the November 30 Budget), and Michael Portillo (her favoured defender of the faith) is not ready to be a serious candidate.

Lady Thatcher's memoirs might seem an odd way of expressing her support. But if yesterday's extracts in *The Sunday Times* are the most damaging things she has to say about Mr Major, he need not worry. Her remarks about him may be patronising (his "tendency to accept the conventional wisdom" and his "whip's instincts"), but they are mild by comparison with her view of others. The overblown leaks in the *Daily*



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Mirror have taken the sting out of the passages about Mr Major and have left the main argument with Lords Howe and Lawson.

The current Tory unity will be tested by the Budget, by the pace of economic recovery and by the elections next May and June. These could still turn into a referendum on Mr Major's leadership. Moreover, even in the respite which Mr Major has won has been bought at a price. The Tory right may prove allies of convenience rather than commitment. His tilt towards the Euro-sceptics has worried the pro-European left, who may be less loyal to him in a crisis. Mr Major's comments about a "return to basics" on social policy, law and

order and income tax may have reassured his predecessor and solidified the core Tory support: tough action on law and order may have some populist appeal. But the right-wing rhetoric at Blackpool may have jarred with the less committed.

Mr Smith has faced a similar predicament. To win the support of the union block votes over his proposals for one member one vote, he had to reassure them about the continuation, even strengthening, of union links with the party. He has also promised to give unions and workers of all kinds, both temporary and full-time, extensive rights. Despite widespread worries over the erosion of employees' rights since 1979, Mr Smith's promises have enabled the Tories to resurrect the union bogey, the opposite of what

was intended. The self-styled modernisers were mainly on the defensive. Little was said at Labour's conference to appeal to those millions of voters whom the party has failed to attract in the past four elections.

The Liberal Democrats' difficulties reflect their electoral threat to the Tories and Labour. Jack Straw's attacks on allegedly racist tactics by the Liberal Democrats in a Tower Hamlets by-election last month have been echoed by Tory glibes at Paddy Ashdown for being two-faced. It is not just opportunistic tactics in elections. Can the Liberal Democrats be a national voice, rather than an accumulation of local voices? Mr Ashdown has articulated voters' doubts about Westminster politics. But much of what was debated at the party's conference was irrelevant to Britain's main problems.

The malaise in British politics is not merely because the Tories have been binding their wounds and Labour has been looking inwards. There is also an ideological vacuum. There is no spirit of the age. The public are worried about standards of public services such as education and health, law and order, unemployment and a lack of secure job opportunities. But there are no agreed solutions. The Tories pretend that current complaints are nothing to do what they have done in government since 1979. But Labour at times opposes almost for the sake of opposition. It fails to recognise that some changes such as the purchaser/provider split in public services and contracting out may help.

Free-market reforms and economic failures have produced social tensions. But there is no new consensus that the state should be more active and that public spending and taxes should be higher. That is shown by the headaches that Gordon Brown faces as he tries to change Labour's approach on taxes and spending and what Mr Clarke has called "blood on the floor" as the government tries to cut the budget deficit while fulfilling pledges on welfare. The resolution of these arguments will do far more to determine the shape of post-Thatcher politics than anything said at the seaside over the past month.

Recycled paper

CIRCULATION wars are not confined to Fleet Street, it seems. Next weekend sees the relaunch of the *Catholic Times*, 31 years after it was merged with *The Universe*. The paper enters a market positively bubbling with post-encyclical excitement. Rivals, including a redesigned *Tablet*, the *Catholic Herald* and even stablemate *The Universe*, are sharpening their knives.

Catholic Times editor Norman Cresswell, however, is keen to allay his competitors' fears. He believes there is a market for the paper. "Largely because of the clamour of conflicting views out there, we will provide the quiet voice of authority."

How independent the paper will be is another question. The masthead has the words "Follow Peter" emblazoned across it and Cresswell admits that "every journalist loses his integrity over something — to proprietors or advertisers. I don't think losing a little to the Pope is a bad thing."

This shocks Christina Odono, editor of the *Catholic Herald*. "Follow Peter" says it all. Being in the pocket of the Pope should be anathema to a proper journalist. I would have thought that someone

Follow Peter I know not the man

picking up the *Catholic Herald* would not be interested in a paper that never questions the Catholic teaching. Once they'd got over the novelty, presumably.

● A big date for Billy Fury fans next month when a lecture in Liverpool's Anglican cathedral is blessed and dedicated to the pop star, who died in 1983 at the age of 42. Derrick Walters, dean of Liverpool, says: "Billy Fury is a well-known Liverpool name," — and one who's clearly well past half way to paradise.

Loose ending

JOHN TUSA is in no rush to find something else to do after his decision to resign as president of Wollston College, Cambridge, after less than ten months. Instead, the former managing director of the BBC World Service is looking forward to a period of quiet reflection. "I wanted to have three months off after the World Service, but I was rather bundled into Wollston so I never got them. Now I will," Tusa, a Trinity man by degree, refuses to comment on the circumstances that have



DIARY

led to his sudden departure. But students say it is linked to his decision to suspend John Cathie, senior tutor of the college, in July. The college authorities, however, insist the two matters are not connected. The governing body will be formally notified of Tusa's decision when it meets on Wednesday. But Tusa's decision is final. "He's left college already," says John Seagrave, Wollston's bursar. "He didn't attend last week's matriculation dinners. It was a very sudden decision with no warning. We're very disappointed."

Bounced out

NONE of the England winter tour party apparently features in Tony Lewis's forthcoming cricket coaching manual for the MCC. The book, *MCC Masterclass*, replaces the now

elderly MCC Coaching Book, which featured Peter May and Ted Dexter. In their place will be Mike Brearley on captaincy, the likes of Dennis Lillee and Bishan Bedi on bowling, and for batting Geoffrey Boycott, Viv Richards and the man England left behind, David Gower.

The Gower influence is clear. "The universal message is that too much coaching is a bad thing," says Lewis. "All of them say that it is best to develop your talents — go for your shots and then graft on the technique."

● With Baroness Thatcher otherwise engaged next Monday (the official launch date for her book), husband Denis has agreed to fill the breach by unveiling Michael Noakes's life-size portrait of her at the Fine Art Society.

The picture shows Lady Thatcher outside No 10, but does not, says Noakes, make a political point. "The painting is not a political picture and I am not making a political statement. It's a picture picture." But the work is definitely historic — she's depicted extending a hand in welcome.

Getting to grips

EVEN the redoubtable Lady T might balk at a hand extended by Mick McManus, the former wrestler. But McManus, who finally hung up his trunks in 1982, insists he only wants to shake her hand.

"You could say I am a political animal," he said at Fleet Street's Wig and Pen Club which last week opened its restaurant to the public for the first time. "I am a great fan of Margaret Thatcher and I went to Downing Street when Maggie was in office. She was one of those people who had a great presence."

And John Major? "He is a very nice fellow but he needs that little bit of gumption. He needs a tougher approach to things. Nothing that a couple of rounds with Mick couldn't put right."



The pianistic Yoko, left, and her pop namesake

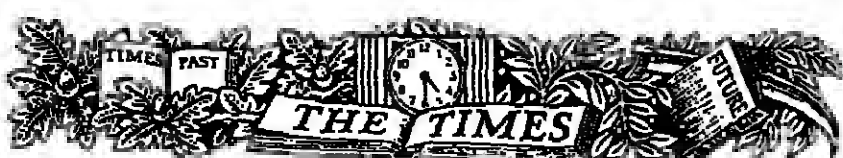
Ono, not that old joke again

YOKO ONO, the Japanese classical pianist, is well acquainted with the frustrations of having a famous namesake. After all, she has been living with jokes and instances of mistaken identity since she moved to Britain to study at the Royal Academy of Music in 1961.

But all that will be consigned to the past, she hopes, when she makes her London debut at the Purcell Room in the South Bank centre later this month. She will be playing works by Beethoven, Liszt

and Ravel — and absolutely nothing by John Lennon. According to Helen Jennings, Ono's manager, the pianist has been "quite amused" by the jokes. "But this is her London debut and I hope after this there will no longer be any confusion." However, the problems have not gone away yet, says Jennings. "When Classic FM heard about this concert they rang and asked if it was 'the same Yoko Ono'. I told them it wasn't. I haven't heard from them since."

سكوت الاحول



BATTLE FOR HISTORY

Politicians must argue frankly, as well as acting tough

Even before full publication, Baroness Thatcher's memoirs remind us that the European exchange-rate mechanism has been the rock on which have founded the great political careers of the 1980s. Its victims included John Major, Nigel Lawson, Geoffrey Howe and Margaret Thatcher herself — a political death ioll suggesting extraordinary destructive power. How could the ERM do such damage? The first excerpt from Lady Thatcher's book, published yesterday in *The Sunday Times*, hints at an answer whose significance goes well beyond this single sorry debacle.

The decision on ERM membership required consideration of the most fundamental issues of government: national sovereignty, control of inflation and the management of economic growth. Yet in all the years of vacillation about the ERM, there never seemed to be a proper debate in which the arguments were fully examined and objections frankly thrashed out. Policy was made at speed, with no proper analysis and little regard for unintended consequences.

Comparing the memoirs of Lady Thatcher and Lord Lawson, the prime minister and chancellor seemed to be speaking different languages at their weekly meetings at 10 Downing Street. Lady Thatcher says that she always opposed ERM membership because it could weaken the government's grip on inflation: "the only effective way to control inflation was to control the money supply." Yet Lord Lawson must surely have explained to her — as he does for some 100 pages in his own memoirs — that controlling the money supply had not proved effective in controlling inflation and that her own government repeatedly abandoned its monetary targets. Lady Thatcher insists that her main worry in 1987 and 1988 was the danger of economic overheating; but Lord Lawson maintains that the prime minister never once argued for higher interest rates than the Treasury proposed.

Then there was Lady Thatcher's remarkably prescient injunction to her next Chancellor, John Major, just before he took Britain into the ERM: "I made it very clear to John that if sterling came under pressure, I was not going to use massive intervention. Willingness to renege on our currency if the circumstances warranted was the essential precondition to entry." Was Mr Major not listening? Did he disagree with his prime minister on such a fundamental issue without telling her? Or did he agree with Lady Thatcher while he was Chancellor, but then change his mind about flexibility when he became prime minister — without bothering to inform his cabinet colleagues?

The easy answer to such questions is that political autobiographers are always trying to nudge history in their favour. Their memories become selective. But a more disturbing possibility cannot be ignored: that the memoir-writers are telling the truth and that misunderstandings and evasions are, indeed, the main motor of government. Despite their thick skins, many politicians are afraid of serious debate. They will go a long way to avoid thinking about complicated issues. Even the most abrasive, like Lady Thatcher, will often prefer to slide round a disagreement, rather than provoke a "needless" confrontation. Power usually means dealing with the "hard" challenges of day to day politics and making quick decisions, not poring over abstract ideas.

Yet Lady Thatcher had some bold intellectuals at her side — people who loved ideas and argument for their own sake, people like Keith Joseph, Alan Walters, Nicholas Ridley and Nigel Lawson, in his early days. Men such as those are not around Downing Street today. Nor could they be seen last week in Blackpool. There are tougher problems ahead of Mr Major than persuading party loyalists to be loyal to their party. A government without sharp debate and clear thinking is a government adrift.

WHAT SOMALIA NEEDS

Mr Clinton shows signs of panicking without cause

After promising to show "firmness and steadiness of purpose" in Somalia, President Clinton has once again tried to buy off his critics by pointing in all directions at once. He has more than doubled the American presence in Somalia; but simultaneously pledged a complete American withdrawal by April. The second decision reduces the impact of the first. An arbitrary deadline is incompatible with Mr Clinton's proclaimed determination to see through the task of preventing a return to armed anarchy which, he rightly stresses, would mean renewed famine. American involvement is vital to the UN's military capacity to maintain a "secure environment" — the necessary condition for political negotiations and the eventual formation of a Somali government.

Mr Clinton may have hoped, by setting his deadline, to subdue the rising clamour at home that Somalia is becoming "a miniature Vietnam". He would be wiser to confront that charge head on. The camera may not lie; but by concentrating on Mogadishu, it has given American viewers a highly distorted picture of the truth.

The Somalia operation is not a failure, but a near-success that could still be reversed by precipitate American withdrawal. Aid agencies confirm that outside southern Mogadishu, General Aidid's fiefdom, the security brought by UN troops is already bringing tangible dividends. Famine has ended, most of the emergency feeding centres have been closed and land is being farmed again, producing the first significant harvest since the civil war. Basic education has resumed, and displaced Somalis are returning. But providing the seeds, tools and livestock will take time. Peace in some areas is uneasily maintained against armed bandits. As long as the country bristles with weaponry, inter-clan fighting could flare again.

Washington could usefully draw lessons from a minor gunbattle on Saturday in Belet Huen, an oasis town northeast of Mogadishu. Local Somalis attacked an Italian contingent of the United Nations forces who were dismantling an arms dump. There was nothing anti-UN about the attack, the Italians believe: it was simply that the local Hawadle clan objects to being disarmed until the UN has subdued General Aidid's faction of the rival Habre Gedir clan in southern Mogadishu. The moral is that there will be no peace in Somalia until the Aidid faction lays down arms, and other factions feel safe to do so.

Mr Clinton has sent in Robin Oakley, the diplomat whose decision early this year to let General Aidid keep armed retainers led directly to last week's disastrous shoot-out. His aim appears to be to achieve a "quick fix" by resurrecting a pact reached between the factions last spring. But that deal did not stick, partly because those involved had little real interest in peace: most had usurped Somalia's traditional leaders.

A quick fix is unlikely to be possible. The slower UN timetable, which aims for district councils first, then 18 regional ones and finally, in 1995, a transitional national council and elections, is quite ambitious enough. Instead of bypassing the UN, Washington should insist on a new UN mediator with a deep understanding of Somalia's complex clan allegiances. The best choice would be Muhammad Sahnoun, the UN's widely trusted Algerian envoy to Somalia who was sacked last year by Boutros Boutros Ghali for his justified criticisms of the "lousy" performance of UN agencies. Mr Clinton is under pressure to show that America can keep the UN in line in Somalia: to insist that the UN invite Mr Sahnoun back would be a constructive way to do so.

FALSE ALARMS

Quiet questions for sleepless nights in the city

There are few occasions when a citizen takes the law into his own hands, vandalises another person's property and wins the applause of his neighbours. But the man who takes a hammer to a burglar alarm that has been ringing for four hours may win the status of local hero. To many sufferers from purposeless noise, burglar alarms have come to epitomise the worst menaces of urban life, malfunctioning at every conceivable occasion, invariably waiting until a Friday night, when the owners are away and untraceable, before unleashing their aural violence. Little wonder, therefore, that the police, whose time they waste more than any vexatious human plaintiff, now threaten to ignore their phony warnings.

There is a law of diminishing returns in the installation of burglar alarms. The more there are, the more frequently a false alarm disturbs the neighbourhood and the less notice is taken of the maddening cacophony. A burglar nowadays may happily risk a break-in, secure in the knowledge that he can work undisturbed by the commotion outside. The law lags far behind in curbing this plague. It exacts no penalty on the householder who allows his cats to set the thing off. It gives the police no right of forcible entry. It provides no redress for distressed neighbours. And only last year has

cut-out: which, though welcome, largely defeats the purpose of the contraption, as the chances of neighbours coming round in that time to thwart a real burglar are slim.

The proliferation of alarms is largely caused by insurers who see in them a way to avoid their financial obligations. Many specify that an alarm must be installed before cover can be obtained for house contents. If householders then fail to switch it on every night, as well as every time they drop in next door for coffee or pointer around in the garden, there is a new chance for insurers to disclaim liability.

Despite well-founded anxieties about the industry's image, the false alarm rate, usually from cheaper systems or those not linked to a remote monitor, has come down only slightly from the worst year in 1989, which saw 1.2 million false alarms from 500,000 installed systems. A smart alarm should be able to distinguish between a real burglar and a curtain flapping against a window. Cannot the police be able to flip a switch somewhere that shuts the noise off? Is there not some other way of dealing with intruders — flashing lights, cameras, a puff of fluorescent smoke that makes offenders glow for days? All these questions — as well as the prospect of local heroism — can be asked in the long hours of alarm-flooded

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Mixed response to Tory proposals on law and order

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, Although widely interpreted as an expression of Thatcherite zeal, there is not something peculiarly old-fashioned about the home secretary's announcements on sentencing policy (report, October 7). Mr Howard's speech to the Conservative party conference will present huge problems to the prison service.

Even before it, we were witnessing a return to the levels of prison overcrowding which so disfigured penal policy in the 1970s and 1980s. It was also noticeable that the speech contained no reference to the Woolf report on the prison riots of 1990 or the subsequent white paper, "Custody, Care and Justice". To all intents and purposes, the Woolf report is now a dead letter.

However, perhaps the most worrying (and least radical) aspect of the speech was the green light which it gives to the courts. Where are the market mechanisms here?

In the National Health Service, many doctors are not budget-holders, free to exercise their clinical discretion but subject to the limitation of what the public purse can stand. In contrast, the courts' use of imprisonment is subject to no restraint. The taxpayer will have to meet whatever demands they make for prison places.

The independence of the courts is no more and no less a bulwark of a free society than that of medical practitioners. All law and order services now work to fixed budgets, and must demonstrate efficiency and effectiveness. Why are sentencing decisions excluded from these requirements?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW,
Director, Prison Reform Trust,
59 Caledonian Road, NI,
October 7.

From Mr John Cartwright

Sir, In the light of the growing national crime rate and of the fall in the number of cases being tried in the courts, it is right that an increasing number of people arrested, especially adults, should be dealt with in secret, allowing them to go virtually unpunished. I refer to the wide use by the police of what is known as disposal by a caution.

A person under arrest at a police station is effectively under the immediate power of a custody sergeant who has the power to decide whether the

case is to be disposed of quietly "in house" or forwarded to the Crown Prosecution Service, with a view to prosecution in the courts.

As an alternative to recommending an immediate caution, the sergeant may recommend referral to a "diversion unit", a little known organisation jointly funded by the police, social services and the probation service, with senior police officers on its management structure. This will also almost invariably result in a caution or referral to a unit. In either case, it is a prerequisite that the alleged offender fully admits the offence alleged.

Offences which the sergeant may recommend for disposal in this way include wounding, indecent assault, unlawful sexual intercourse, dwelling-house burglary, going equipped for stealing, handling stolen goods, and criminal damage. Previous convictions, even for similar offences, are no bar to referral to one of these units.

Many of the people arrested, when offered the option of a caution, may be tempted — out of expediency or ignorance — to admit to an offence which they have not committed. Quite often they receive no independent legal advice as to the correctness of the charge preferred against them; yet, if they accept a caution, their names will as a result be placed in the police national computer. They will thus acquire a "record", if they do not already possess one.

By the use of these procedures many cases are being diverted away from the courts. Are not the undoubtedly cost savings likely to prove a false economy? Can extending the soft option of a mere caution to selected individuals be the right way to promote law and order?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CARTWRIGHT,
Francis Taylor Building,
Temple, ECA.

From Mr Jonathan Sofer

Sir, Your leader of October 7, "Howard's beginning", records the home secretary as stating that "he intends to enhance the rights of victims of crime". Mr Howard did not mention that some months ago the Home Office decided to abolish, for all practical purposes, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. As you reported last February, a white paper to this effect will be published later this year.

At present, persons attacked by burglars in their homes and victims of

rape and child abuse, among others, may obtain substantial damages from the CIB. Awards made by the board, presided over by experienced lawyers, provide full compensation.

In a recent case the board awarded £90,000 for pain and suffering to a young man who had been stabbed in the back, resulting in complete paraplegia. A further award of £694,197 included over £100,000 for past and future loss of earnings and £242,432 for future care.

Mr Howard, it seems, is determined to abolish all compensation except for the basic award for pain and suffering, and to reject pleas made on behalf of victims of crime to at least maintain the rights to proper compensation in each of the above categories.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SOFER,
199 Strand, WC2,
October 7.

From Mrs Elizabeth Ward

Sir, I welcome and applaud the tough measures being proposed by the home secretary; but dare I suggest, as a humble ex-JP, that there seems to be one grave omission?

The concept that criminals should be rewarded for good behaviour, thus able to earn remission from their sentence, is surely quite out of place at a time when our society is threatened with an increasing number of lawless citizens who have no respect for the property or the lives of others.

It is high time that bribery for good behaviour should be replaced by punishment for bad. A sentence should only be increased, not decreased, other than by appeal, and a life sentence should mean a sentence for life.

Yours truly,
ELIZABETH WARD,
Oakham Place Cottage,
Nr Bordon, Hampshire,
October 7.

From Mr E. A. Payne

Sir, Both the home secretary and the Lord Chief Justice are on record as believing that the criminal justice system is weighted in favour of criminals.

No sir, no mud. The criminal justice system is weighted in favour of the innocent. Long may it remain so.

Yours sincerely,
E. A. PAYNE,
5 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
October 8.

London orchestras

From the Secretary-General of the Arts Council

Sir, Tora Graham, chairman of the British Association of Concert Agents (letter, September 29), raises the issue of orchestral expertise on the Arts Council's music advisory panel. He rightly acknowledges the very considerable distinction of panel members, who are well qualified to advise us on the wide range of music we support.

We have, of course, established a special committee under the chairmanship of Sir Leonard Hoffmann to advise the council as to which of the three London orchestras presenting bids best satisfies the council's criteria for future funding. The members of this committee, whose names will be announced shortly, have specific expertise in the management and operation of orchestras.

Each year we invite nominations for our advisory panels from a wide range of professional bodies. The Association of British Orchestras has been invited regularly to nominate a suitably qualified person. In recent years no nominations have been received from the association, but any suggestion from them in the future for panel membership will receive serious consideration.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY EVERITT,
Secretary-General,
The Arts Council of Great Britain,
14 Great Peter Street, SW1,
October 1.

Catholic needs

From Sir Patrick Duffy

Sir, I agree with your leader of October 6, "Cardinal truths", that in Cardinal Basil Hume the papal encyclical has a "noble interpreter". I believe that many in the English Catholic community will be grateful also for your profoundly understanding, though far from uncritical, commentary. It contrasts sharply with some media attention which has been selective and even trivial.

It is significant that much reaction to the leaked draft last month was largely southern-based and tended to dwell on sexual morality. One newspaper thought it necessary to find out "what prominent Catholic women think" and concluded that the encyclical "will drive away the next generation of Catholics".

I encountered at the same time a quite different reaction when I addressed the Union of Catholic Mothers of the Hallam diocese in Sheffield. These not so "prominent" but otherwise eminently practical women from Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield indicated different concerns.

Representing Catholic parishes in which living has become more difficult as their local communities have become morally fragmented, and confronted daily themselves with the problem of reconciling lasting Christian essentials with current political fashions, their interests were social and political, as well as personal. Their main concern was how does

society proceed to repair a generation of damage to the family, and thus return to a stronger sense of community and solidarity.

The Union of Catholic Mothers in South Yorkshire will warmly welcome *Veritatis Splendor*. For in its ringing defence of objective moral values, and its rejection of whatever is offensive to human dignity, such as child abuse, exploitation of labour and business fraud, as well as abortion, it has met their own expressed concerns.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK DUFFY,
153 Bennethorpe,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire,
October 6.

From Mr Simon Scott

Sir, Your leader included several refreshing comments on the way in which Cardinal Basil Hume has handled the papal encyclical: "... could not have asked for a more sensitive or intelligent introduction ... no attempt to disguise ... did not mislead ... he sensibly counselled ... his wise words ..."

These phrases are in sharp contrast to comments reserved for today's politicians. Indeed, in Simon Jenkins's article of the same day on the "unpopular" Mr Major, sentiment of that kind was conspicuously missing. Does the cardinal fancy secondment to No. 10?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON SCOTT,
Four Elms,
Lower Heyford, Oxfordshire.

Ethics awry over NHS waiting lists

From Mr John Luck

Sir, There is increasing evidence, obtained from surveys by both the BMA and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, that hospital trusts are giving priority to patients of GP fundholding practices. Management teams are making such requests because of their financial problems.

To separate patients into two groups, one of which is disadvantaged, is against the ethics and training of the hospital consultants; but the consultants are not by any means always successful in resisting these pressures, and waiting lists are being manipulated unfairly.

The reorganisation of the NHS has produced benefits for the patients, despite the considerable rise in managerial costs, but it is still to be regarded as an experiment in health care and there is no certainty that it will succeed in its objects. The NHS has been subjected to "reorganisations" before, and these have never influenced the chronic (and inevitable) under-funding of the service.

The demands on the NHS by doctors on behalf of their patients have of necessity always been curbed by the financial constraints exerted by management. This conflict is to the benefit of both the patient and the economy, provided that the medical profession maintains a strong, united influence.

Lord Moran, one of the architects of the NHS, believed that the key to an excellent service was a strong, elite consultant establishment. Perhaps, in the light of events, an independent observer would say that he placed the balance too far in favour of the consultants in particular and the medical profession in general.

Now, however, the pendulum has swung too far the other way. Increasing management power is demoralising the consultants, who are losing status and influence at an alarming rate. It is time for the profession to shed its apathy and to tell the government that much exists in its plans which is not only mistaken but possibly disastrous.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. LUCK,
(Consultant Surgeon),
The Princess Margaret Hospital,
Osborne Road,
Windsor, Berkshire,
October 7.

Kipling on the map

From Canon F. H. D. Davey

Sir, As Mr Room points out (letter, October 6), Michigan is one of at least three US states to boast a town called Kipling. It also boasts a Rudyard, south-west of Sault Ste Marie — likewise (I assume) named in honour of the poet in the 1890s. According to a report published some 50 years ago in the *New York Times*, Kipling wrote a "light piece of verse" on the back of a photograph which he sent to the manager of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad — apparently the person responsible for the naming of the two towns. The verse read as follows:

Wise is the child who knows his sire,
The ancient proverb ran,
But wiser far the man who knows
How, when and where his offspring
grows,
For who the mischief would suppose
I've sons in Michigan.
Yet I am saved from midnight ills
That warp the soul of man.
They do not make me wait the floor,
Nor hazzard at the doctor's door,
They deal in wheat and iron ore,
My sons in Michigan.
O tourist in the Pullman car
(By Cook's or Raymond's plan)
Forgive a parent's partial view;
But maybe you have children too —
So let me introduce to you
My sons in Michigan.

Yours sincerely,
F. H. D. DAVEY,
126 Ashtree Road,
Stonebridge, Frome, Somerset.

On the ocean wave ...

From Miss Daphne Windle

Sir, You report (Travel News, September 30) a reduction of tourists to the Shetlands after the Braer disaster.

I have just returned from a week on south Mainland and visits to other islands. The weather was bright and sunny and the islanders hospitable. There was no oil to be seen on the beaches; in fact I have had more oil pollution problems when holidaying in Cornwall over many years than from one Shetlands oil spill. It is a place of peace and tranquillity. I shall return at the first opportunity.

Yours sincerely,
DAPHNE WINDLE,
222 Harrowdene Gardens,
Teddington, Middlesex,
October 4.

... and in the armchair

From Mr Richard Hodgson

Sir, I gave up imaginary railway journeys (Mr Dennett's letter, October 7) because the weather was so disappointing.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HODGSON,
29 Viking Heights,
Martlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Business letters, page 34

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number.

From Dr Derek C. Glover

Sir, In furthering his wish that schools should be effective in the transmission

of "basic" skills, the

... were ex-superintendent Bill and a convict.

OBITUARIES

SIR DAVID SELLS

Sir David Sells, barrister, businessman and chairman of the Central Council of the Conservative party, 1978-79, died on September 29 aged 75. He was born on June 23, 1918.

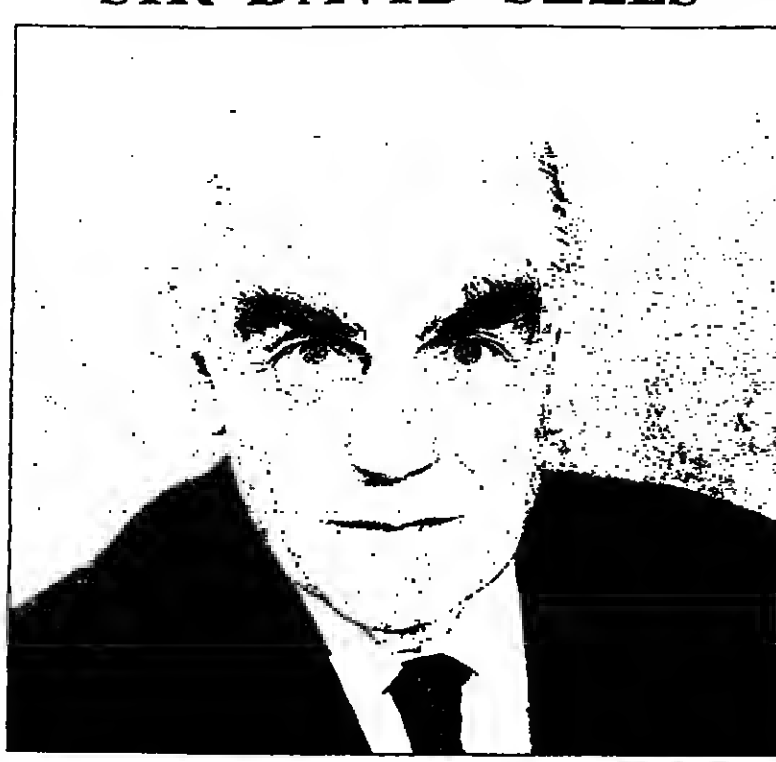
DAVID SELLS had the perfect attributes for a Tory grassroots activist. Time and time again he would produce appropriate words of good cheer when dark clouds gathered and others became more and more agitated and depressed. He had a gift for the cheery phrase.

Tall, beetle-browed with a booming voice and a stormbreaker's handshake, he was prominent on the constituency side of the Conservative party — at national level — for 16 years. In 1978, he presided over Margaret Thatcher's last party conference as leader of the Opposition, doing so with a gusto reminiscent of Lord Hailsham.

David Perronet Sells, the son of Edward Perronet Sells, was educated at Sandroyd and Repton before going up to Christ Church, Oxford, where he read law. In 1941 he was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion of the Coldstream Guards and saw active service in North Africa and in Italy. Wounded in the Italian campaign, he taught himself Italian while in hospital and became proficient enough to act as a liaison officer between the advancing Allies and the surrendering Italians. He ended the war as a major.

The law was his next target, while at the same time intending to seek a career in the House of Commons. Called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1947, he was taken on in the same chambers as a future Lord Chief Justice, John Widdicombe. The two became firm and lifelong friends and for years shared the same weekend hobby.

The Bar held a marked appeal but his practice was short-lived. Briefs were few and far between and the financial demands of marriage and a young family meant he had to look elsewhere. A succession of business interests followed — coal distribution,



rope-making and the excavation and landscaping of lakes. Probably the business project that gave him most pleasure was the huge lake in the water gardens at Balmoral, which Prince Philip asked him to create.

In the 1950s he sought selection for several Tory seats in East Anglia — his home at the time was in Bedfordshire — but without success. His best effort was to make the final short-list of three for the Bury St Edmunds constituency. Eldon Griffiths was selected and David Sells and Michael Havers (a future attorney-general and Lord Chancellor) were disappointed.

Unlike many who give service at local level and then fail to find a winnable seat, he was not embittered by the experience. In 1961 he was welcomed being chosen as chairman of the Cambridgeshire constituency Conserva-

Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, a rather longer period than it is usual to serve on that body. During this time he also became involved in European politics as chairman of the Euro-constituency for Cambridgeshire, a post he held until 1985.

Gradually, however, he came to feel a certain disillusionment with the politics of the 1980s. His own views were basically those of the One Nation vintage — more humane, progressive and caring than the policies that were being advanced over the past decade. He took it particularly badly when Francis Pym, the former Foreign Secretary, and James Prior, both men he had known for years, were eased out of the government by Margaret Thatcher.

Sir David was a good host, a man with a sense of humour who added to the conviviality of any social occasion. He and his wife enjoyed entertaining their friends with political discussion on a lively level into the early hours. They maintained a second home high up on the hills near Avignon, a bolt-hole thoroughly enjoyed by their friends especially for its lovely garden which had been created from bare earth.

Shooting, fishing and painting were regular hobbies. But his real love was racing and over the years he enjoyed a share in several racehorses. One, the unrepentingly grey Absalom, won that good sprint the Tote Free Handicap at Haydock and then went on to win a big race in Milan partnered by Lester Piggott. More unusually, he loved letter-writing and would cheerfully pen amusing, gossipy letters to friends in a beautiful Italian script. These lightened many a breakfast table and were of a quality that made some recipients put them away with their family papers and heirlooms rather than consign them to the wastepaper basket.

David Sells was knighted in 1980. He is survived by his wife, the former Beryl Charrington, whom he married in 1948, and their three sons.

RICHARD DUFTY

Richard Duffy, CBE, former Master of the Armouries in the Tower of London, died on October 5 aged 82. He was born on June 23, 1911.



DICK DUFTY's schooldays had a profound influence on his life. A former Master of the Armouries, visiting Rugby School, inspired in him a passion for arms and armour which stayed with Duffy until the day he died. While other boys collected stamps or birds' eggs, young Duffy was accumulating flint-lock pistols.

At the same time he found a good way of escaping sports days at that eponymous temple of Rugby football. While contemporaries were packing down in the scrum, he developed an early interest in old churches and toured the rural parishes on his bicycle, with the benign approval of the school. John Bejerman, who later became a friend, pursued a similar interest while at Marlborough. This pattern of activities shaped Duffy's life.

He was to become not only the first full-time Master of the Armouries but also a leading authority on old churches and a powerful voice on the preservation of Britain's heritage. Arthur Richard Duffy was born in Hull, the son of a bank manager who was killed in Flanders in 1915. From Rugby he went to Liverpool School of Architecture and practised briefly after qualifying. In 1937, however, he joined the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments which had been set up to record Britain's architectural inheritance. The work of compiling detailed inventories for each county or major conurbation was almost tailor-made for him.

But he gave it all up during the war, serving below decks in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, in and around British home waters. At one time he slept in a hammock in HMS Victory when Nelson's flagship was being used as a surplus barracks.

Resuming his career at the Royal Commission after the war, Duffy rose to become its secretary and general editor in 1962 — thereby responsible for the National Monuments Record. The two-volume meticulously detailed register of Cambridge, with a separate book of maps, was one of the achievements in which Duffy took particular pride.

In parallel with his work at the commission, Duffy had also established a considerable reputation not only as a collector of arms and armour but also as an administrator and organiser. One year after

being put in charge of the commission he was thus offered the post of Master of the Armouries.

Duffy was very much out of the traditional mould for the part-time job: an amateur gentleman collector who would rule on the overall strategy at the Armouries, while leaving the day-to-day work to the small permanent staff.

Over the next decade, however, he revitalised the exhibition so successfully that he turned it into a full-time director's post. In 1973, therefore, he took early retirement from the Royal Commission after 36 years and became the first full-time Master of the Armouries, finally retiring in 1976. The present galleries, especially those in the White Tower, have been largely credited to Duffy's flair and influence. (In recent months he had made known his opposition to the proposal to move part of the Armouries from the Tower to Leeds.)

But he was also ever branching out into fresh fields. While secretary, and later president, of the Society of Antiquaries he masterminded the restoration of Kelmscott Manor, the Oxfordshire country home of William Morris. The house had been left to Oxford University, but with such restrictions on its use that it was rapidly becoming an empty ruin — and a grave embarrassment to the university.

After taking legal advice, Kelmscott was handed over to the society, the transaction being completed with Dick Duffy over port at a high table

in Oxford. He then set about the mammoth job of restoration, together with the architectural firm of Donald Insall. The result was held to be a conservation triumph. Duffy also became so engrossed in William Morris that he became a leading expert on Morris's work. At one time he stayed in the restored manor and during the last two years of his life he lived nearby.

Duffy sat on a vast number of committees, including many concerned with church architecture although he had no deep personal religious convictions. In 1988 the Archbishop of Canterbury conferred on him an honorary DLI in a ceremony at Lambeth Palace. Christopher Fry was among the others honoured at the same time. Two years previously he received a conservation award from The Times.

Duffy was a big man in all senses of the phrase. Full of good humour he was said to be one of the best committee chairmen in the country — with a talent for harnessing people with different talents and making them work as a team. He was a notable raconteur and after-dinner speaker.

His publications included: *Kelmscott: An Illustrated Guide* (1970); *Morris Embroideries: The Prototypes* (1985); *Excitism and a Chair* by Philip Webb (1986). Victorian and art nouveau were among his special interests.

Dick Duffy's first wife Kitty died two years ago and he is survived by his second wife Jean and a son and two daughters from his first marriage.

JIM HOLTON

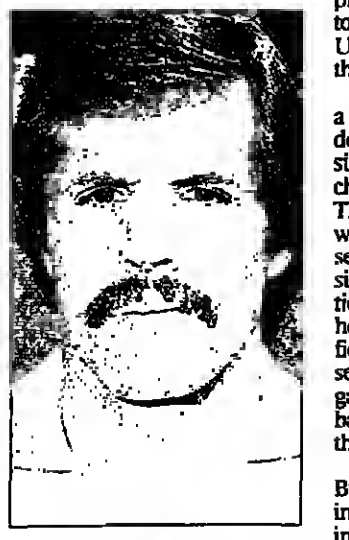
Jim Holton, former Manchester United and Scotland centre-half, died at the wheel of his car of a suspected heart attack on October 4 aged 42. He was born at Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, on April 11, 1951.

JIM HOLTON's career at Old Trafford was brief but his impact was enormous. A big, rumbustious central defender, Holton became a cult figure at a club more famous for its vivid attacking play, where the supporters' heroes had always been players of extravagant talent and personality — Edwards and Colman, Law, Best and Charlton. The club shop even sold car stickers bearing the legend "Six foot two, eyes of blue, Big Jim Holton's two principles".

If they took the urge to fight for survival too literally, Holton was a prime mover. He joined West Bromwich Albion from junior football, but failed to make an impression and was allowed to drift into the lower divisions — to Shrewsbury where he came under the influence of the manager, the former United goalkeeper Harry Gregg, who appreciated Holton's commitment and enthusiasm.

Under Gregg's tutelage, Holton began to attract attention, and in January 1973 he joined Manchester United. He

was still raw, but his commitment and sheer physical presence gave United a lift. The club avoided relegation that season by a whisker, and Gregg earned a call-up for Scotland as a reward. United could not survive on effort, or intimidation, alone and they went down the following season. Holton, however, was developing into a much more rounded centre-half than the demon figure of



terrific mythology. His physical presence was still imposing, his power in the air formidable, and his tackling still fierce, but he had learnt when not to commit himself, and his tackles now looked less rash.

Although United were relegated in the spring, Holton's career reached its peak in the summer of 1974, when he was an outstanding success in Scotland's World Cup team.

He had made his debut in 1973 in the 2-0 victory over Wales, and quickly established himself as Scotland's centre-half, winning his 15 caps between 1973 and 1975.

In the World Cup his displays revealed that he was much more than just a crude stopper. He proved a quick learner as he encountered the different requirements of international football and he returned to United a better player, one well able to adapt to the change of style as United at last remembered their traditions.

They began the season with a flourish, and were soon dominating the second division, winning promotion as champions at the first attempt. They were equally impressive when they began their first season back in the first division, but Holton's contribution came to an abrupt end as he broke his leg against Sheffield United in December. A second break in a reserve game as he began his comeback was to prove effectively the end of his United career.

By the time he was fit again, Brian Greenhoff, the England international, was established in his place. Holton had played a mere 69 games for United, scoring five goals when he moved on to Sunderland and then Coventry, without ever recapturing his old dominating ability. He finished his playing career with Sheffield Wednesday, although he never played for the club because of injury. When he retired in 1981, he returned to Coventry to become a publican. He is survived by his wife and two children.

LEILA CAMPBELL

Leila Campbell, former LCC GLC and Leica member and chairman of the Hampstead Theatre Board, died on October 2 from cancer aged 82. She was born in 1911.



AN ACTIVE member of the Labour party since the late 1930s, Leila Campbell was first elected to the old London County Council as a member for Holborn and St Pancras in 1958. She served on that body until its winding-up in 1964, then transferring to the Greater London Council as a representative for Camden.

But her main political work was done in the field of education, where she was chairman of the now abolished Inner London Education Authority for a year (1977-78) and vice-chairman for ten years. Her particular sphere of interest lay in the authority's extensive network of day and boarding schools for children with special needs. It was her ambition to visit every such school and, although this was never achieved, she managed to see and be seen at a great number. She also served as a governor of the Frank Barnes School for the Deaf, the Franklin Roosevelt School for the Physically Handicapped and the Royal Free Hospital School.

All this, together with her successive membership of two borough councils (first Hampstead and then Camden, from the latter of which she retired only in 1978), might have been thought enough to fill one life. But Leila Campbell was a woman of indomitable energy and her other great passion

was the theatre. She had an abiding link with the Central School for Speech and Drama, which was assisted by Leila until 1968.

But by then her own principal focus of interest had become the Hampstead Theatre in whose move from its first home near the Everyman Cinema to its new site at Swiss Cottage she had, as a Hampstead councillor, played a crucial part. She served on the theatre's board from 1978, taking over the chair in 1985 and holding it until within weeks of her death.

In that time she worked alongside four successive theatre directors — Michael Rudman, David Aukin, Michael Attenborough and Jenny Topper — all of whom came to number her as a strong supporter and friend. She would usually see a Hampstead production at least three times — on the first occasion (normally at the final preview) invariably murmuring, "That was wonderful, now I have to go away and think about it". She was also a great admirer of the playwright Michael Frayn, two of whose plays were first produced at Hampstead. She never claimed to be anything more than "an amateur enthusiast" but to the theatre and its staff she displayed a remarkable example of pastoral care. Her husband Andrew Campbell, a former Labour party agent, died in 1968. She is survived by her daughter.

BRIGADIER R. C. HALSE

Brigadier Richard Clarence Halse, CBE, military lawyer, died on October 6 aged 88. He was born on January 18, 1905.

BRIGADIER R. C. Halse was the Director of Army Legal Services from 1955 to 1962, and in 1979 was made the first Colonel Commandant of the Army Legal Corps.

This was the culmination of a lifetime's devotion to the Army's legal services. Educated at Wellington and Corpus Christi, Cambridge, from which he graduated in law in 1925, Halse — always known as "Herbert" — was admitted a solicitor in 1929.

He was given a Territorial commission in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1925, later transferring to the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's Surrey Regiment), and in 1936 he became a regular officer, serving in the military department of the Judge Advocate General's office.

By the time war broke out in 1939, Halse was a lieutenant-colonel. He saw action in France, West Africa and, from 1944, in Europe. Immediately afterwards he was made one

of the officers in charge of war crimes and was prosecutor at the trials of Field Marshal Kesselring (whom he kept supplied with pipe tobacco during the trial), General Falkenhurst and many others.

In 1946 he was prosecutor in the trial of General Bernhard von Mackensen and Lieutenant-General Kurt Maelzer, who together were charged with organising the mechanical butchery of 335 Italians in a disused quarry outside Rome during the latter stages of the war.

The court heard the harrowing details of how local prisons had been combed to find enough victims for a "ten-for-one" reprisal after 32 German police had been killed by a bomb, thrown from the window of a house in Rome, in March 1944. In 1945 Halse was mentioned in dispatches and in the same year he was appointed OBE.

In the years that followed he was Deputy Advocate General, British Army of the Rhine, and, on the reorganisation of the military legal services in 1948, was appointed the first Deputy Director of Army Legal Services with the rank of colonel, becoming director with the rank of brigadier in

1955. In that year he was appointed CBE.

It was as Director of Army Legal Services that he was most closely involved in the reform of military law, resulting in the passing of the Army Act 1955 — the first major attempt to modernise the legislation regulating the Army.

Halse retired from the regular Army in 1962. Thereafter he joined the legal branch of the Post Office and continued to practise advocacy regularly until the end of 1968.

When Army Legal Services became one of the corps of the Army in 1978, it was wholly appropriate that Brigadier Halse should be the first Colonel Commandant, an appointment which he fulfilled with vigour and enthusiasm.

He made an enormous contribution to both British and Commonwealth military law, editing or contributing to successive editions of the *British Manual of Military Law* and drafting defence legislation for countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Ghana, the West Indies, Belize and Tonga. He also wrote a manual of military law for Jamaica.

He is survived by his wife Sylvia and his daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

RENTALS: BALMAIN prof m/f to share flat... BELLEVUE 2 bed flat... BLOOMSBURY 3rd floor flat... CHICHESTER 2 bed flat... COVENT GARDEN 2 bed flat... EATON PL. Excellent flat... FULHAM 1 bed flat... HAMPSHIRE 2 bed flat... HENRY & JAMES... HINGWATE 2 bed flat... HOLLAND PARK... TICKETS FOR SALE: ALL TICKETS... TICKETS FOR SALE: FIRST CLASS PROPERTY... SERVICES: PLUMP PARTNERS... TICKETS FOR SALE: When responding to...

ANIMALS IN NEED: Please help to provide... DIALYSIS AND TRANSPLANTATION: THEIR ONLY HOPE... IDYLIC LIFE IN A PRISON: From Our Own Correspondent... ON THIS DAY: October 11 1955... Georges Snudd, a convict who had been serving seven years' hard labour for armed violence, and who became Bill's confidant. This is only the first trial, and later this month seven former convicts will come up before the Caldwells Assizes, charged with forgery. The charge against Bill is merely that of negligence in favouring interference with official documents, and that against Snudd is the active corruption of a Civil servant. In court today the chairman of the bench asked Snudd if he had ever received his mistress in prison. Snudd appeared to be shocked and replied: "Never... well, at least, only in the parlour." Bill was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and a fine of 50,000 francs (£50) and Snudd to four months' imprisonment. Bill's counsel had argued that his client was in fact a forerunner of prison reform and had merely been trying to avoid the hiatus between the life of a free man and that of a convict.

NEWS

Heseltine challenges Tory right

Michael Heseltine, who indicated in an interview yesterday that he still considered himself a potential future leader of the Conservatives, warned the right of the party that anti-European rhetoric carried economic dangers and continued bickering could result in dire political consequences.

Mr Heseltine, who suffered a heart attack four months ago, said he was heading for a complete recovery and echoed John Major's warning to the Tory party conference on the perils of disunity. Pages 1, 2, 7, 14, 15

US ponders deal with Aidid

The Clinton administration was considering peace negotiations with the Somali warlord, General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, according to reports in Mogadishu circulating as thousands of Aidid supporters demonstrated. Pages 1, 11, 15

Book dispute

Lord Howe of Aberavon and Lord Lawson of Blaby have rejected criticism by Baroness Thatcher in her memoirs. *The Downing Street Years*. Pages 1, 2, 14

Gorbachev hint

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, indicated that he was considering a political comeback in Russian presidential elections. Pages 1, 10

Gaddafi duped

Muammar Gaddafi of Libya has been tricked out of \$3 million (£1.9 million) by a group of Americans posing as CIA officials who persuaded him that they would be able to help his country avoid further sanctions over the Lockerbie bombing. Page 2

Boy on the run

A Yorkshire boy of 13, wanted for a series of burglaries and car crimes and described by the police as a "crime wave on his own", was on the run after social services had authorised his detention. Page 3

Mackay jeered

Magistrates greeted the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, with loud jeers and hisses over his plans to reorganise courts. Page 5

Old folks at home

Some relatives looking after elderly people are registering as private residential home owners to claim up to £300 a week towards costs. Page 4

Cash and carry the Russian way

Well-mannered crewmen of the Russian training ship, *Gangut*, turned Dartmouth into a huge marketplace, selling everything they could carry ashore. Then, their pockets bulging with real money, they swept through shops buying up music centres, radios, microwave cookers, food and fruit. Devonians were sorry to see them leave yesterday. Page 1

Tower rooms 'faked'

English Heritage has complained that newly recreated medieval apartments in the Tower of London are historically inaccurate and illegal. Page 5

Women's race

Oxford is leading the Church of England race to ordain women priests. Page 5

Yeltsin rules

President Yeltsin has decreed that all Russia's regional councils should be subordinate to local administrators loyal to him and has ordered elections. Page 10

Safeguarding accord

Worsening attacks by Arab hardliners on Jewish targets would not be allowed to diminish Israel's determination to implement peace agreements with the PLO. Page 11

Bhutto returns

Punjab fell to Benazir Bhutto and her allies in provincial polls virtually clinching her return as Pakistan prime minister. Page 11

School cash enquiry

A Commons select committee is investigating large differences in money spent on primary and secondary school pupils. Page 4

Mafia links

Agreements between Russian criminals and Italy's main Mafia groups have been reached to run trade in drugs and nuclear material, according to a leading Italian investigator. Page 10



Andreas Papanandreu greets his socialist Pasok party followers who were anticipating victory in yesterday's Greek election. Pages 1, 9

SPORT

Football: Barnet gained their first point of the season after ten consecutive second division defeats when they managed to hold Cardiff City to a goalless draw at Underhill yesterday. Page 25

Equestrianism: Nick Skelton registered his first success of the week by winning the Everset Championship and its £3,000 prize on Showtime at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley. Page 20

Boxing: Chris Eubank said nobody deserved to win. Nigel Benn insisted that he won by three clear rounds. Srikumar Sen assesses the super-middleweight clash that, for once, lived up to all the pre-fight hype. Pages 19, 21

BUSINESS

Bank on it: The Alliance & Leicester Building Society is to set up a new bank next spring. The fourth largest society needs the approval of the Bank of England and the Building Societies Commission in order to go ahead. Page 36

Light at the end? As Eurotunnel reports its half-year figures, Ross Tienan looks at prospects for the Channel Tunnel when the trains start next year. Page 34

Gloomy week? Gloomy surveys from Dun & Bradstreet, the financial information company, and the CBI today start the week in which the September unemployment and inflation statistics will be released. Page 33

FEATURES

Seamless confessional: For nine consecutive hours a day, Monday to Friday, the American couch potato can watch Oprah-style talk shows, one after another. Kate Muir joins the voyeurs. Page 12

Spring preview: Each designer did a version of the little dress, the most important item in next season's wardrobe. Iain R. Webb in Paris and Milan. Pages 9, 13

EDUCATION

Returning spotlight: Opting out may have slipped down the educational agenda, but the centrepiece of Conservative educational reform is about to return to the limelight. Page 31

ARTS

A night at the opera: Graham Vick's new Covent Garden production of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* adds up to an inspiring evening. Page 27

Civilisation reborn: The BBC2 documentary showed Sir Kenneth Clark's 1969 television series, *Civilisation*, taught the world to appreciate the beauty of art. Page 27

Bloomsbury girls: Eileen Atkins and Penelope Wilton bring the unique relationship of Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West to the West End stage. Page 28

Capital Jenkins: Money and power on the streets of London fire Simon Jenkins in his excellent new book of essays about the capital. Page 29

TV LISTINGS

What makes black athletes special? *Will to win: Champions* (BBC2, 7.40pm) tries to answer the question featuring six of the best and finds that in most cases it is a mixture of talent and application. Page 35

OF THE WEEK

What Somalia needs After promising to show "firmness and steadiness of purpose", President Clinton has once again tried to buy off his critics by pointing in all directions at once. Page 15

The battle for history

Baroness Thatcher's memoirs remind us that the European exchange-rate mechanism has been the rock on which the great political careers of 1980s have foundered. Page 15

False alarms

Burglar alarms have come to epitomise the worst menaces of urban life, malfunctioning at every conceivable occasion. Little wonder that the police threaten to ignore their phony warnings. Page 15

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Increasingly the world's capital is going offshore — much of it has already gone. Once it goes offshore it can no longer be taxed, either as capital or as income. Just as wealth is swinging to Asia, capital is swinging away from national jurisdictions. Page 14

PETER RIDDELL

British politics returns from the seaside to Westminster in an unstable and messy state. Little has been clarified or resolved. Page 14

MATTHEW PARRIS

I can testify (and a glance at Lady Thatcher's memoirs confirms it) that even hardened journalists who have been war correspondents in their time are shocked by the depth of the hatred felt by British politicians for colleagues in their own parties. Page 14

Reactions from Prison Reform

Trust and others to Tory proposals for law and order. Page 15

South Africa's conversion on the

world stage from that of outcast to a universally accepted emerging democracy was proper and richly deserved. — *The Washington Post*

The Clinton administration should reassess what it wants to accomplish in Haiti, and how. *The New York Times*

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Is Child Support Act working?

Chris Barton investigates the issue and discusses how the new law is causing conflict between former partners.

Can we still have a free will?

In a world where everything is determined by the laws of science, Stephen Hawking poses the question in the first of two essays from his new book.

One of a kind

Krzysztof Kieslowski's films are so distinctive that even a single shot can never be mistaken for anyone else's work. Now his latest, *Blue*, comes to Britain.



Lord Ashley of Stoke, the former Labour MP Jack Ashley, who had been deaf since 1968, is able to detect sounds again after an operation. Page 4

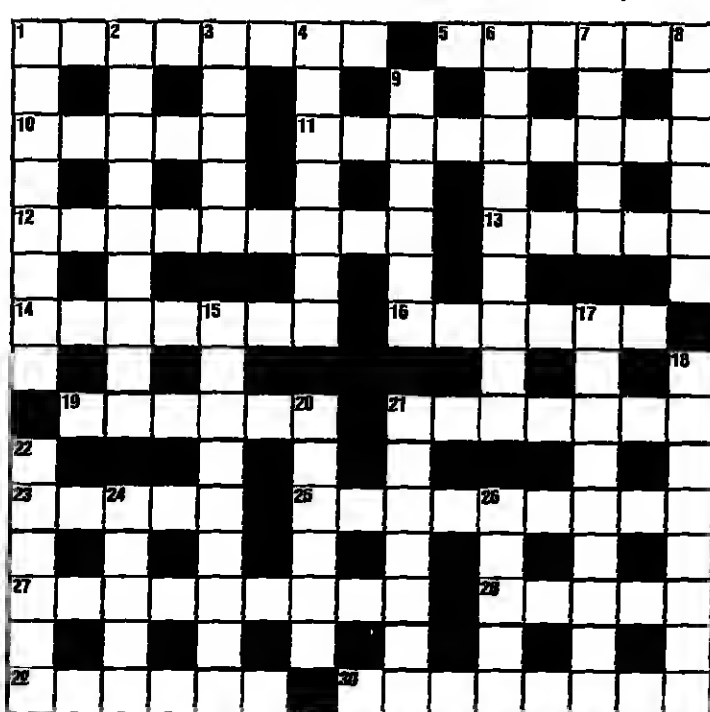


Darren Clarke, 25, of Northern Ireland, birdied two of the last four holes to win his first golf tour event and £100,000 in the Belgian Open. Page 26



Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, warns of a coming generation that would have little idea of what a loving father can be. Page 3

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,358



- ACROSS**
- With money in the bag, acknowledgements of debt are wide-ranging (8).
 - Make a great show of putting political leader in nick (6).
 - There's nothing, absolutely nothing, like an egg (5).
 - Concerns trendy testers-out (9).
 - Evidence a Conservative is a subscriber (9).
 - Children can be a problem! (5).
 - "A dwarfish whole, its body brevity and wit its soul." (Coleridge) (7).
 - Get a draught from a medico in French religious house (6).
 - A church official apparently on edge (6).
 - Being late with brochure, pull out (7).
 - Expertise, or just trickery? (5).
- DOWN**
- The South houses people — people from the North (8).
 - Sale doing badly, close (9).
 - Some disdain dialect in this country (5).
 - All the same, it's clothing of a kind (7).
 - Awfully inert characters put inside — in prison — get fit (9).
 - A ship with quarters for animals (5).
 - A supplier of basic knitwear (6).
 - Given support, didn't quit (6).
 - Virtuous rogue? This must be erroneous! (9).
 - Honoured companion, like the Venus de Milo but without the grace (9).
 - Stall on a municipal thoroughfare? That's typical (8).
 - He works constructively, topping fellow! (6).
 - The pledge is sincere (7).
 - Rare fright about cold (6).
 - Athenian garret (5).
 - Composed, though put down (5).

KNOCKANDO

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,357 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky and a stationery rack.

TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
West Surrey, Sussex	702
Don't Hare & IOW	703
Down & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Devon, Somerset	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northants, Cambs, Hunting	708
West Mid & Str. Glam & Gwent	709
Gloucestershire & Worce	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humbers	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N.W. England	716
W & S. Yorks & Dalms	717
N.E. England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/London & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Orkney & S. Highlands	724
N.W. Scotland	725
Canterbury, Orkney & Shetland	726
N. Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Bedford T-M25	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	
West Country	737
Wales	738
Midlands	739
East Angles	740
North-west England	741
North-east England	742
Scotland	743
Northern Ireland	744
Luxembourg	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Southern and central England and Wales will be rather cloudy with rain at first. Brighter weather with heavy showers will follow from the south with patchy rain extending into northern England during the afternoon. Northern Ireland and much of Scotland will have sunny intervals, although northern Scotland will have some showers. It will be chilly in the north. Outlook: unsettled with showers or longer periods of rain.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: 1=thunder, 2=drizzle, 3=fog, 4=sun, 5=cloud, 6=rain, 7=clear, 8=partly, 9=cloudy, 10=rain, 11=sun, 12=cloud, 13=rain, 14=sun, 15=cloud, 16=rain, 17=sun, 18=cloud, 19=rain, 20=sun, 21=cloud, 22=rain, 23=sun, 24=cloud, 25=rain, 26=sun, 27=cloud, 28=rain, 29=sun, 30=cloud, 31=rain, 32=sun, 33=cloud, 34=rain, 35=sun, 36=cloud, 37=rain, 38=sun, 39=cloud, 40=rain, 41=sun, 42=cloud, 43=rain, 44=sun, 45=cloud, 46=rain, 47=sun, 48=cloud, 49=rain, 50=sun, 51=cloud, 52=rain, 53=sun, 54=cloud, 55=rain, 56=sun, 57=cloud, 58=rain, 59=sun, 60=cloud, 61=rain, 62=sun, 63=cloud, 64=rain, 65=sun, 66=cloud, 67=rain, 68=sun, 69=cloud, 70=rain, 71=sun, 72=cloud, 73=rain, 74=sun, 75=cloud, 76=rain, 77=sun, 78=cloud, 79=rain, 80=sun, 81=cloud, 82=rain, 83=sun, 84=cloud, 85=rain, 86=sun, 87=cloud, 88=rain, 89=sun, 90=cloud, 91=rain, 92=sun, 93=cloud, 94=rain, 95=sun, 96=cloud, 97=rain, 98=sun, 99=cloud, 100=rain.	
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AROUND BRITAIN

Sun	Rain	C	M	F
1	0.47	11	52	rain
2	0.11	15	59	bright
3	0.14	10	50	rain
4	0.17	14	57	showers
5	0.21	15	59	sunny
6	0.24	16	60	showers
7	0.27	17	61	showers
8	0.30	18	62	showers
9	0.33	19	63	showers
10	0.36	20	64	showers
11	0.39	21	65	showers
12	0.42	22	66	showers
13	0.45	23	67	showers
14	0.48	24	68	showers
15	0.51	25	69	showers
16	0.54	26	70	showers
17	0.57	27	71	showers
18	0.60	28	72	showers
19	0.63	29	73	showers
20	0.66	30	74	showers
21	0.69	31	75	showers
22	0.72	32	76	showers
23	0.75	33	77	showers
24	0.78	34	78	showers
25	0.81	35	79	showers
26	0.84	36	80	showers
27	0.87	37	81	showers
28	0.90	38	82	showers
29	0.93	39	83	showers
30	0.96	40	84	showers
31	0.99	41	85	showers
32	1.02	42	86	showers
33	1.05	43	87	showers
34	1.08	44	88	showers
35	1.11	45	89	showers
36	1.14	46	90	showers
37	1.17	47	91	showers
38	1.20	48	92	showers
39	1.23	49	93	showers
40	1.26	50	94	showers
41	1.29	51	95	showers
42	1.32	52	96	showers
43	1.35	53	97	showers
44	1.38	54	98	showers
45	1.41	55	99	showers
46	1.44	56	100	showers

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 9pm, 16C (61F); min 6pm to 9pm, 11C (52F). Humidity: 65 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 9pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 9pm, 3hr. Sea, max sea level, 6pm, 1.00m. Min tide, 24hr to 9pm, 0.1m.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Colwyn Bay, 18C (64F). Lowest day temp: Spadecomb, 10C (50F). Highest rainfall: Southsea, Hampshire 1.85in. Highest sunshine: Solihull 8.2hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 9pm, 16C (61F); min 6pm to 9pm, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 9pm, 0.1in. Sun: 24hr to 9pm, 3hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 9pm, 13C (55F); min 6pm to 9pm, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 9pm, 0.1in. Sun: 24hr to 9pm, 3hr.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.21	2.21
Austria Sch	18.44	18.44
Belgium Fr	56.70	56.70
Canada C\$	0.78	0.78
Cyprus Cyp	0.78	0.78
Denmark Kr	10.82	10.82
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany Dm	2.41	2.41
Greece Dr	347.50	347.50
Hong Kong S	1.05	1.05
Ireland P	2.41	2.41
Italy Lira	254.00	254.00
Japan Yen	178.00	178.00
Netherlands Gld	0.91	0.91
Norway Kr	11.43	11.43
Portugal Esc	200.00	200.00
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	12.81	12.81
Switzerland Sfr	2.20	2.20
Turkey Lira	1800.00	1800.00
USA \$	1.62	1.62

HIGH TIDES

Kirkcaldy	7.1	0.08	12	54			
Leeds	3.8		15	59			sunny
Leicester	1.7	0.11	12	16			cloudy
Lithamstead	2.8	0.37	15	57			showers
Liverpool	1.0	0.12	15	59			cloudy
London	5.0	0.68	15	59			bright
Lowestoft	7.2	0.18	15	58			sunny
Manchester	4.4	0.14	15	59			cloudy
Margate	6.7	0.35	13	55			thunder
Middlesbrough	3.8	0.18	18	61			showers
Monmouth	8.0	0.17	15	59			cloudy
Newcastle	3.1	0.21	12	54			rain
Nottingham	3.2		15	58			sunny
Perthshire	7.4	0.18	18	61			sunny
Plymouth	8.1	0.17	15	59			cloudy
Scarborough	2.3	1.30	14	57			rain
Sheffield	7.3	0.18	15	55			thunder
Sidley Isles	1.0	0.31	13	55			sunny
Southampton	8.2	0.02	15	59			sunny
Southend	7.3	0.15	15	59			cloudy
Southsea	3.5	0.04	14	57			bright
Stamford	3.4	1.65	13	58			rain
Swansea	4.4	0.18	15	59			showers
Torquay	8.1	0.15	15	59			showers
Torquay	3.0	0.25	14	57			cloudy
Torquay	2.5	0.02	14	57			cloudy
Torquay	3.0	0.17	15	59			sunny
Weymouth	6.0	0.17	18	61			rain



ARTS 27-29

A near-perfect Wagner for Covent Garden



SCHOOLS 31

Opting-out: is the bandwagon slowing down?



BUSINESS 32-36

Channel tunnel ushers in a rail revolution

BOOKS ON MONDAY Page 29

THE TIMES 2

MONDAY OCTOBER 11 1993

Promoters the only winners as bitter rivals fight each other to a standstill

Benn and Eubank draw no conclusion

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

ONLY two people in the crowd of around 47,000 that turned up to see the return between Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank at Old Trafford on Saturday were glad that the bout ended in a draw: Eubank and Mickey Duff, the London promoter.

They are already counting the millions they will make. Eubank from Benn-Eubank III, or against Michael Nunn, the World Boxing Association champion, in the super-middleweight unification series being promoted by Don King, Duff from a mandatory bout for Benn against his man, Henry Wharton, of York, at another football ground, Elland Road.

"Nobody deserved to win that fight," Eubank said. "I don't believe from how I felt and from how the rounds went, he deserved to get it and I don't believe I deserved to get it." When asked what his ambition was, he made it clear it was money. "I'll give you one guess. I'm not a masochist. I don't happen to like pain. I happen to be of sound mind and dislike pain."

Benn moaned that he had been robbed — "I think I won it by three rounds," he said — and King complained that draws were unfair to the boxers and to the crowd. The crowd, though disappointed that they did not see their man defeat the other man once and for all, took it all in good part.

In the days to come, of course, the only certain winners will be the promoters. Benn may not get past Wharton and Eubank may find Ray Close, of Belfast, a bigger handful than he did last time, but King and his promotion for the unification of the title would go on without them. King would prefer Benn, rather than Eubank, to come through to box Nunn, who is his man. Benn is more exciting and against Nunn would make a good puncher-boxer match for American television. Eubank and Nunn would not attract much interest in the United States as they are both counter-punchers. Duff shouted to King after the bout, even as the promoter was still in the ring: "You've got Eubank for Nunn. You can have him with my compliments. He's had two draws. If he gets another one you can send him to Littlewoods."

The bout was not as violent as the first meeting, when neither man wanted to give ground. This time they were three years older and wiser and realised that they could not fight at the old pace anymore. Fit they were but only for each other. Someone younger, Close or Wharton, could find them out.

Despite complaints by King about draws — which are seen by most people to be little more than a smokescreen to obscure the universally criticised draw that favoured his boxer, Julio César Chávez, against Pernell Whitaker re-



Benn covers up as Eubank tries to land a right during the later stages of their super-middleweight bout at Old Trafford, watched by a crowd of more than 40,000, which ended in a draw

cently — King thought Benn-Eubank III would be another sell-out. "This is what is a matchmaker's dream when you see a draw," he said. But it would be surprising if Barry Hearn, King's co-promoter, could fill a similar stadium again or if King would come up with the same kind of money for a bout that is little more than a domestic one that has blown itself out.

This time they boxed tactically. They waited for their openings and picked their punches with care, particularly Eubank, who did not allow himself to get involved in a scrap of his own making, preferring to stand off and drop quick combinations on Benn and move on to another position of advantage. Thus it was until the fifth round, when the bout exploded into a fight and Benn had Eubank backing off for the first time. Benn, too, did not look for a

fight unnecessarily. In the old days, if he was hurt he would come back, now he tucks up and works out his next move. If Eubank looked more positive than he has in his last seven bouts put together, it was because of Benn. Whether

was probably boxing at about 5lb over the 12st limit because the weigh-in had been the previous night, Benn made it possible for Eubank to put his punches together rather better than he is capable of doing when faced by a slick boxer.

"This bout was not as violent as the first meeting... they were three years older and wiser. Someone younger could find them out"

or not he won the bout — I believe he was a round in front at the end — there can be no doubt Benn was the star of the show. It was not so much that Eubank had improved as Benn made him give of his best. By taking the fight to a naturally heavier man, who

Both men had taken care to be fit but Benn was perhaps fitter. He had the quicker body movements and made the running. He showed he could take Eubank's best punches without flinching — and some of Eubank's one-twos in the early rounds

would have knocked over bigger men.

Benn's workrate was also the more impressive, as the gloves were 10oz rather than the 8oz that were used in their first savage encounter three years ago. It is hard enough working against a heavier man but trying to knock him out with heavier gloves is even more difficult. To a certain extent, the bigger gloves may also have worked in Benn's favour by lessening the impact of Eubank's blows.

Even Eubank had to admit Benn boxed well. "Nigel fought a very good fight," he said. "I didn't believe he would be so formidable. I have nothing but respect and admiration for the man."

All in all, Benn could count himself the moral winner for he drew 115-113 (Eubank), 114-113 (Benn) and 114-114, despite having a point deducted for low blows. The loss of a point

was fair, as he had been warned twice by the referee, Larry O'Connell, who had also gone over to Benn's corner and told him he would be forced to take off a point if he did it again. In the sixth, Benn repeated the foul.

It has been said that O'Connell should have taken a point away from Eubank for persistent holding. But the referee explained afterwards that while Eubank was holding he believed that Benn himself had taken refuge in Eubank's arms.

Much improved though Benn might be, his bout against Wharton could be a difficult one. Being managed by Duff, who masterminded Michael Watson's victory over Benn, Wharton can be expected to come up with some clever strategy to surprise the champion.

David Miller, page 21

Zambian cup dream ends in gallant failure

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
IN CASABLANCA



Porterfield: job search

AMID extremes of jubilation and despair, the forces of reality rode roughshod over sentiment in the Stadium of Honour in Casablanca to ensure that Morocco, not Zambia, will be in the United States for the World Cup next summer.

A well-worked goal by Abdismah Laghrissi five minutes into the second half blurred, and finally shattered, the vision of the reborn Zambian team, who found that the world's sympathies meant nothing in the face of a passionate home crowd and the determination of the Moroccan side to clinch a 1-0 victory. It was a cruel full stop for fate to put on the end of a chapter of World Cup history at times related more to fiction than fact.

At the final whistle, with thousands of newspaper torches signalling the triumph of Morocco's third qualification for the World Cup, the real

heroes of the hour were left slumped beside the pitch, trying desperately to share their disbelief as they have shared tragedy, revival and joy over the past six months. Ian Porterfield, who has guided the team with sensitivity and skill for the past four months, thanked each player but could not hide his disappointment.

Had not a cross from Gibby M'Basele bobbled along the goal line before being hooked away and a header from Charles Musonda flashed wide, he might have been contemplating offers to take the Zambians to the World Cup finals alongside Nigeria and the Camerouns, the two other qualifiers from the African continent, and enjoying celebrity status in Lusaka. As it is, he will back in England today searching for a job.

Yet, until Laghrissi's studied header from a pinpoint cross by El Hadroui, the Zambians had done enough to get the point they needed to qualify. Though the Moroccans

had exerted most of the pressure, the inexperienced Zambians had held firm, calmed early nerves and begun to dampen the spirits of the crowd. But one momentary loss of concentration allowed Morocco to score and, after that, the dream faded slowly and surely into the Casablanca twilight.

To add to their difficulties, the Zambians had to overcome an old psychological barrier. Arab v African is a meeting of religions and culture more intense, more divisive even, than black v white and the Christians of Zambia had never fared well against the Lions of Atlas, as the Moroccan side is colourfully known. Other emotional eddies lay beneath the surface. The Zambians had objected to the Gabonese referee because the relationship between the two countries had become so strained since the air crash off the coast of Gabon six months ago. The Zambians relented when Fifa, the world governing body, stood their ground.

But suggestions in the Moroccan press that Zambia had exploited the sympathies of the world for their own ends were designed to heighten the tension of an occasion already primed for explosion. The accusations, though, had not impressed one of the waiters in the Zambian team's hotel. "We have a soft heart for the Zambians," he said.

Soft hearts were not enough, though. Only next summer, perhaps, when the 24 nations gather for the 1994 World Cup will the real loss be felt. As they have shown in rebuilding a team from the void of disaster, the Zambians have enough spirit and talent to take on the mantle carried so exuberantly by the Camerouns in Italy. Now, they will have to return home and start to build once again. MOROCCO (4-0-3): Agui — Azami, Nayes, Mezouzi, El-Hadroui — El-Hadroui, Tahar-el-Khalil, Rochdi Douadi — Hani, Mohamed Chouch (sub: Farouk, Bouni), Laghrissi (sub: Khadi, Zou). ZAMBIA (4-5-1): J. Piri — E. Salaka, E. Litani, H. Chongo, A. Chivanga — J. Lungu, G. M'Basele, E. Mubale (sub: C. Musonda, G. K. Bwalya, J. Bwalya — K. Mubale). Referee: J-F. Duran (Gabon).

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TI 11/10

THE LOAN CORPORATION

Expatriates have upper hand at Wormwood Scrubs

Australians who play by their own set of rules



Simon Barnes on an international staged in England but redolent of the sport's antipodean origins

The game is Australian Rules Football. It is normally called Aussie Rules. The Aussieness is the most obvious thing about the game, the Rules the least. And so, beset by a truant disposition, I went to Wormwood Scrubs to watch an Aussie Rules international.

Readers may supply their own Australian jokes here, though the match was not actually in the prison, it was on the vasty fields outside. A very English scene: a big sky, autumnal with towering cloud, and an endless green sward for playing games on. Landscape with goalposts.

"Over there!" the groundsman said urgently. "The pitch is over there." This may have been Great Britain v Hong Kong, but we were deep in amateursville. These were not Aussie Rules footballers they were people who played Aussie Rules football. Readers may make their own moral judgments here. If they wish, but everyone had a nice afternoon on, anyway, and there were at least as many spectators as there were players. The Hong Kong coach took a beer bottle from his mouth long enough to shout, "Go, Hong Kong", before replacing it.

There were not a lot of Chinese in the Hong Kong side. Well, none. Shock-horror, this was mostly expat Aussies, making a statement about their love of Australia, if not their love of Rules.

The Great Britain side ("Go, Bulldogs") operate under complicated rules of eligibility. The national league, with teams like West London Wildcats, permits no more than 12 of the 22 lining up for any one game to be Australian. The rest must be European Community passport-holders who have never played Rules in Australia.

So there is a sprinkling of Brits; and oddly, or not so oddly, a good collection of Irishmen. Hurling is the only game in the world that makes Rules look like a soft option; it is rough, but they do not carry bloody cudgels.

Back to Rules, such as they are. Hong Kong won 105-52. There were no punch-ups, many bruises. This is a game

about kicking and catching, and it is considered socially acceptable when reaching for a high ball to use your opponent's kidneys as a step ladder.

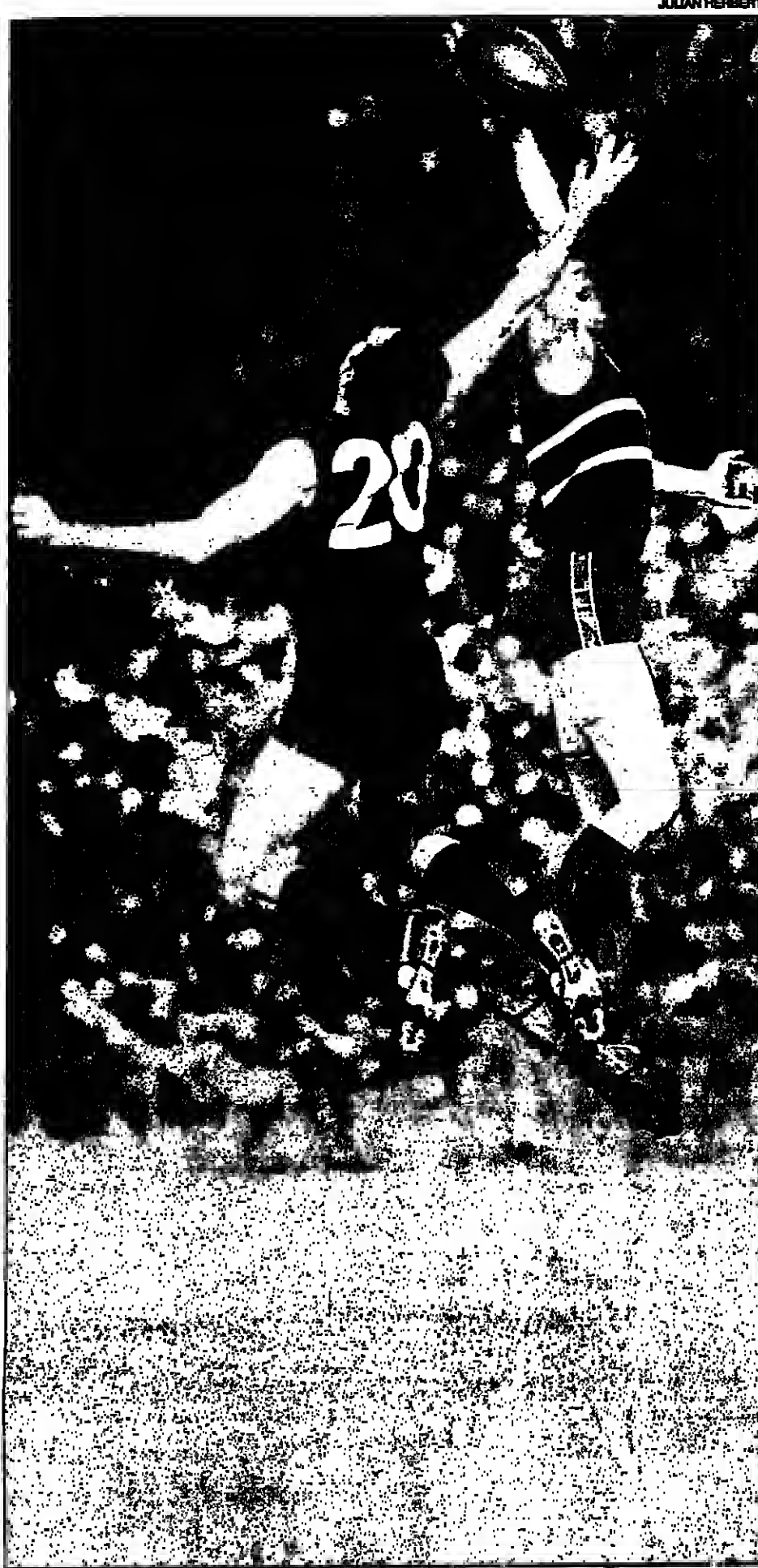
In football, or rugby, if you think the opposition's courage or commitment is suspect, you pepper them with high balls. The basic structure of Rules is an unending rain of high balls, and the endless fight for the ball beneath. To catch the ball cleanly while being dismembered is the high point of the art: a fine sporting spectacle.

So much for Rules. It is the Australianness that counts. You can play this game at Wormwood Scrubs, in Kowloon, or at the Melbourne Cricket Ground; the game is still a celebration of Australia. Football, as in soccer, was invented in England, but you can kick a ball in Soweto, Rio de Janeiro, or, for that matter, Wormwood Scrubs, and you are playing the world's game. Perhaps that is why the Americans will never take to it. Because the national games of America have the same quality. Anyone who puts on shoulder-paddings and a helmet to play American football is celebrating America, even if he is playing for the Milton Keynes Bucks.

Many nations play baseball, and it is even an Olympic sport, but you cannot pick up a round bat without offering a tribute to all things American. Some sports are inescapably imbued with a single nation. They are played with patriotic fervour, expatriate nostalgia, or sometimes a kind of *Toujours Provence* wish-fulfilment.

In fact, there was a *boule terrain* hard by the Scrubs. If the aim was to get the tough city kids of West London playing *boule* then the experiment has failed. The *terrain* was knee-deep in ragwort.

The Gaelic sports, hurling and Gaelic football, were revived as a deliberate statement of nationalism. Policemen, by definition working for the British colonial power, were banned from playing either. And to play hurling in Boston or Sydney



A member of the Great Britain side (hooped shirt) outjumps a Hong Kong opponent

is to celebrate Irishness. Rules has existed for 150 years and it remains a purely Australian concern. So what about England? Look for a game as quintessentially English, and many will turn at once to cricket. What after all, could be more English?

It was so English that Indian princelings played to show how jolly English they were. But it got out of hand. As history marched and the world changed, so cricket changed and grew beyond Englishness. Cricket is only an expression of Englishness when the English play it. These days it is also a celebration of Pakistaniness, Australianness, West Indianness. That is where problems arise—in all games, but most particularly in cricket. Too many English people still think that cricket is merely English through and through. It is, but it is many other things through and through as well. Times and games change; cricket is no longer English Rules.

John Kruk, the first baseman, drove in three of Philadelphia's runs. Mariano Duncan and Kruk hit back-to-back triples in the fourth for a 1-0 lead. Kruk's home run put the Phillies 2-0 up in the top of the sixth, but the Braves went ahead in the bottom of the inning and did not look back.

White Sox continue comeback against Blue Jays

LANCIE Johnson hit a home run and a triple for a career-best four runs batted in as the Chicago White Sox beat the Toronto Blue Jays 7-4 in Toronto on Saturday and levelled the American League championship baseball series at 2-2. No team has captured a league play-off after losing the first two games at home.

Johnson gave the Sox a 2-0 lead in the second inning with his first home run since August 24, 1992, and broke a 3-3 tie with a two-run triple in the sixth. Tim Lincecum, normally a starting pitcher, who was acquired by the White Sox from Cincinnati just before the trade deadline on July 31, got the win after allowing one run on three hits and three walks in 3 1/3 innings in relief of the rookie starter, Jason Bere.

Trailing 5-3, the Blue Jays had a chance to level the game in the bottom of the sixth. Rickey Henderson drew a one-out walk, moved to second on a wild pitch, took third on White's groundout and scored on Alomar's double down the right-field line. Carter followed with a single to shallow left, but Tim Lincecum nailed Alomar at the plate to end the inning.

The White Sox added runs in the seventh on Joey Cora's groundout and in the ninth on Robin Ventura's single. Toronto had one more chance to win at home last night when Chicago sent out the leading pitcher, Jack McDowell, against Juan Guzman, of the Blue Jays.

The Atlanta Braves resumed their offensive onslaught on Saturday to beat the Philadelphia Phillies 9-4 and gain a 2-1 lead in the National League championship series.

Dave Justice's two-run double was the highlight as the Braves scored five runs in the sixth inning and Mark Lemke delivered a three-run double in the seventh to lead Atlanta's 12-hit assault.

Tom Glavine, a 22-game winner during the regular season for Atlanta, pitched seven strong innings. He allowed two runs on six hits to earn the win, did not walk a batter and struck out five.

The Philadelphia starting pitcher, Terry Mulholland, pitched five scoreless innings and took a 2-0 lead into the sixth before the Braves erupted for five runs. Atlanta added four more runs in the seventh for a 9-2 lead.

John Kruk, the first baseman, drove in three of Philadelphia's runs. Mariano Duncan and Kruk hit back-to-back triples in the fourth for a 1-0 lead. Kruk's home run put the Phillies 2-0 up in the top of the sixth, but the Braves went ahead in the bottom of the inning and did not look back.

Beadsworth retains match-racing title

ANDY Beadsworth retained his BT/RYA national match-racing title at Pwllheli yesterday. Beadsworth and his crew, Julian Salter, Ian Tillet and Barry Parkin, sailed through the five-day series without losing a match.

In the final, Beadsworth beat the Olympic Finn representative, Stuart Childerley, in straight matches and would have secured his title half an hour earlier had not the jury disallowed his win in the first match for forcing a collision at the windward mark. It was the only point at which Childerley was in front.

Two Australian yachtsmen, Simon McKeon and Tim Daddo, aboard a 12-metre high trimaran, Yellow Pages Endeavour, claimed a new outright sailing speed record of 46.02 knots (83.2mph) yesterday at Shallow Inlet, a sheltered bay 180 kilometres south-east of Melbourne. Their speed must be ratified by the International Yacht Racing Union before it can be included in the record books.

Dangerfield sets pace

CYCLING: Stuart Dangerfield broke the record held by Chris Boardman, the Olympic 4,000m pursuit champion, when he secured a comfortable victory in the hill-climbing race at the Horseshoe Pass, near Llangollen, yesterday. He made the 2.8-mile ascent in 9min 04sec to improve on Boardman's record, set in 1989, by three seconds and leave the 120-strong field trailing in his wake. Dangerfield, who will defend his national title on October 31, finished 52 seconds ahead of his nearest challenger, Jon Waddilove, after a ride in which he was helped over the final stretches by favourable wind conditions.

Burt's crowning glory

MOTOR SPORT: Kelvin Burt crowned his championship-winning season with a hard-fought victory in the final round of the British Formula Three championship at Thruxton in Hampshire. The car driven by the race leader, Marc Gossens, of Belgium, flipped across the kerb at the infamous Thruxton chicane, making Burt's task easier. There was further drama at the chicane when Andre Riveiro, of Brazil, overshot the corner and collided with Gossens, putting both drivers out of the race at half distance. Oliver Gavin, of Britain, was second.

Haining in limelight

ROWING: Peter Haining, the world lightweight sculling champion, made an unexpected appearance under Poplar colours in the Tideway Pairs Head on Saturday and took the day's honours in the open double sculls with Chris Spencer. His world championship colleague, Miriam Bateman, raced in a double scull with her younger sister, Guin, the national champion, and they won the women's open doubles by 13 seconds. Thomas Lange, the German Olympic champion, has withdrawn from the Thames World Sculling Challenge. Steve Redgrave replaces him.

Tough draw for Kings

BASKETBALL: Guildford Kings will meet three of the best clubs on the Continent following the European championship draw in Munich on Saturday. Over the next four months, they will play Limoges, the European champions, Benetton Treviso, the runners-up, and Real Madrid, who also made the final four last April. Also in Guildford's formidable group are Barcelona, Olympiakos, Mechelen and Leverkusen.

DRAW: Group A: Barcelona, Real Madrid, Olympiakos, Guildford Kings, Malines, Bayer Leverkusen, Benetton Treviso, Limoges. Group B: Benetton, Juvveta, Baskonia, Cibona Zagreb, Sporting Lisbon, Interfret, Cerat, Pau, Bologna.

Receiver called in

ICE HOCKEY: The owners of Peterborough ice rink have appointed a receiver and the rink, according to a press release, no longer exists. Part of the refrigeration plant has been removed and it is thought that much of it has been destroyed. The Pirates are determined to carry on and hope to play next weekend's home premier division game against Murrayfield Racers at Milton Keynes. As expected, Cardiff Devils were outclassed in their European Cup matches in Riga, losing 9-1 to the Latvian champions and 11-4 to the champions of the Ukraine.

King argues for open judging and 'overtime' in drawn bouts

A former manslaughter convict who starts harranguing about fair play for others is likely to command as much or more attention than if the judge who sent him down were to make the same pronouncements. Don King, the over-size and overbearing American promoter, wants to clean up boxing's poor image.

Not before time, we all say. And the more so, when Ray Clarke, the World Boxing Council supervisor, refused to reveal — as happened the previous week at Cardiff — the round-by-round marking of three judges in what was in every other sense the fight of the year. A glorious exhibition of the Queensberry Rules against a shoddy backcloth.

King, who lost some of his dominance with the demise of Mike Tyson, was moved to make his proposal by the draw decision of another memorable bout at Old Trafford on Saturday between Chris Eubank and Nigel Benn: one judge for each boxer, one split. So valiant were both men, so astonishingly fit and brave and resilient, that a level final card had every moral justification. That, however, was not King's.

There were enough experienced neutral observers who equally supported one or other of two exceptional fighters, and some who genuinely considered the contest so close it was impossible to divide them, that there could be no cause for crying "fix". Nonetheless, some in Benn's camp, some journalists and even Benn himself attempted to imply that there was;



David Miller hears a hustler at work claiming that he wants to clean up boxing's poor image

though that was merely the assertion of life's normal emotional prejudices. King came to the post-fight press conference and, while repeatedly declining to give his own opinion on whether either man should have been given the verdict, stated categorically — at least 11 times, I think, in his usual Buddy Rich-gone-berserk style — that the reputation of the sport requires both open



judging and "overtime" where necessary. I would vigorously resist the second, but the first is as obvious as a cricket scoreboard.

As King stressed, the public and the boxers are entitled to know the state of play, round by round: as a demonstration of integrity and competence by the judges, as an added element of drama for the public, and as guidance for the competitors. Never was a fight more in need of this information as Eubank and Benn, at the climax of

another classic bout, went into the last two rounds as uncertain as the 47,000 crowd who was in front in the minds of the three people who mattered.

Solomon could not have been dogmatic on the balance of such a pulsating, swaying battle of wits, or raw guts and defiant recovery by both men. By my count, as they hurled themselves into the eleventh, there had been

As King stressed, the public and boxers have the right to know the state of play. It demonstrates the judges' integrity

three rounds level, four to Benn and three to Eubank, one of these on the point deducted against Benn in the sixth round for repeated low hitting.

As Eubank arguably, but not conclusively, took those last two rounds, that would have made him the winner. While less blood-spattered than the encounter three years ago, this had been another remarkable display: the hustling, weaving, ducking Benn, who fights like a wolf at the throat of a bear at

bay, Eubank upright, focused, riding Benn's repeated right-handers and responding with an array of combination punches that would have halted almost anyone else. So low was often Benn's head, it was impossible to hit.

Open scoring was tried in America and abandoned, on the grounds that some judges felt emotionally and even physically intimidated. That in my opinion, makes the case even stronger. If judges are so frail as to be driven towards prejudice, they should be exposed and replaced. The need for the referee to collect the round markings is easily overcome by electronic buttons, instantly revealing the score as in gymnastics judging or athletic field events measurements.

Overtime is another matter. King, being a hustler, argues that the boxers can withstand an extra round. Did not they fight 50 rounds in the old days? His suggestion carries the essence of danger. Title fights have been reduced, wisely, from 15 to 12 rounds. For a dazed fighter on rubbery legs, who has earned legitimate equality over 12 rounds, to be forced back into the ring is inviting the kind of damage that further undermines boxing. There is nothing wrong with an honourable draw such as we witnessed at Old Trafford. The smell of corruption to which King refers — and few have been better positioned to have scented it — and the possibility of decisions arranged to generate another lucrative rematch, would be eliminated by open scorecards.

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Holland to set De Wolf on the trail of Shearer



Rob Hughes tests the mood of the camps as England and Holland build up to the vital World Cup tie

THE importance of the World Cup qualifying match in Rotterdam on Wednesday can be seen, indeed felt, at the training camps of England, in the Berkshire countryside, and of Holland, in their hotel on the coast north of Amsterdam.

Yesterday, after a weekend of training, Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, was passed fit. Today, before the squad sets foot on the plane to Holland, another of England's expected first-choice players, the captain, Stuart Pearce, will be asked by Graham Taylor and the team physician, Dr John Crane, to subject his injured limbs to stress coming as close to competitive level as the manager dares.

From that test — and notwithstanding Pearce's desire to play in a match likely to decide whether England reach the World Cup finals — the team shape will emerge.

Something similar has already taken place in Holland. Jan Wouters, the pragmatic and — as Paul Gascoigne can testify — tough and embattled midfielder, was thought doubtful with a calf strain. Forget it. Dick

nine months rehabilitating after his operation on the cruciate ligament of his knee, before announcing their defence. When they know for certain that Shearer is back, his marker will be Johnnie de Wolf. The bearded, mountainous defender of Feyenoord would then be preferred to the speedier Ulrich Van Gobbel, whose presence in the squad was intended to nullify the pace either of Les Ferdinand, or Wright, who played a full part in training yesterday.

Taylor says he believes he has enough experience to be able to tell if a player he chooses is fit to go the distance. At least he has the benefits of feeling "the togetherness" of his entire squad. Advocat is only now emerging from a critical press similar to that which Taylor survived after the Norway debacle.

Advocat had been called a little disciplinarian, and worse for failing to persuade Ruud Geul to lend his considerable presence to the Dutch cause. But in Holland as in England, the closer the contest draws, the tighter the collective will surrounding the manager. The Dutch are now becoming mean, combative with their own press, and all for one.

Advocat and Taylor are now playing waiting games. But the Dutchman, knowing that defeat, or even a draw, would be effectively his last act in international management, will choose the final selection after conferring with his senior players, Wouters, Ronald Koeman and Frank Rijkaard. More than we realise, Wednesday will pit strength against strength, resolve against resolve.

Two of the expected England line-up show how much their players relish such a contest. Andy Sinton, who hopes to come into the team on the right side of midfield, said: "People suggest that I would be regarded as replacing Paul Gascoigne. That's unfair. He's a one-off, a magnificent talent, and whoever wears the shirt can't replace the talent. But I want to play, and if I do, I feel I will let no one down."

Standing beside him, Shearer has a black eye, a memento of "a very hard, very sweaty, and very enjoyable" cup-tie for his club Blackburn Rovers at Bournemouth last week. That bruising contest, he says, should put an end to the doubts about his match fitness. As to doubts of his own during the nine months after his knee operation, he says they were confined to a couple of weeks during which he tried to push his training day by day without apparent improvement.

At that time, indeed throughout his rehabilitation, Shearer had periodic calls from the England manager. They had agreed at the outset that the match he was most likely to return for was against Holland in Rotterdam. "Now it is close, it feels like another debut," Shearer said. "No one needs to tell any of our team how big this game is. If we don't get a point or two, there will be no World Cup."



Shearer determined

Advocat, the Holland coach, mused, if Wouters has two limbs, he plays.

The "mental resolve", of Taylor's most used phrase, is shared by the two countries as the tensions build. In the England camp, the resolve emanates most strongly out of a single room. David Platt, who remains the leader, if not in name the captain, is sharing a room with Alan Shearer.

Platt, established ahead of all England's exports as a five-star competitor, impresses you the moment you walk into Bisham Abbey, where England train in relative seclusion. Platt, scoring with a scissor-kick in training, celebrates with a powerful back flip. The whole camp around him reverberates. Here is a player who will give every ounce of commitment if that is what it takes to win in the Feyenoord Stadium, where 45,000 of the 48,000 spectators will wear orange.

Platt, himself, is taken aback by the resolve of his room-mate. "Alan is the oldest 23-year-old I have ever met," Platt says. "This fellow knows where he is going on and off the pitch, and he wants to go to America with England so badly that you feel nothing will stop him."

Nothing? The Dutch are waiting for confirmation that Shearer, who remember spent



Bullock, the Northwich Victoria goalkeeper, gathers cleanly during his side's 2-0 defeat by Dover at the Kent club's Crabble ground

Buoyant Dover turning the Kentish tide

By the word of the district council, Dover's most memorable sporting occurrence happened 118 years ago. A bust overlooking the sea front stands as a reminder that Captain Matthew Webb, first to swim the Channel, set out from Dover in 1875.

Given the alternatives of sinking or swimming as a football town ten years ago, Dover nearly met the fate that befell Captain Webb in 1883, attempting to swim the rapids below Niagara Falls, he drowned. Semi-professional football in Dover would have gone under 100 years later had not John Husk, now the chairman of Dover Athletic, had the energy and money to throw a lifeline.

When the Southern League club, Dover FC, went into liquidation in 1983, Husk sought out others who would help him form Dover Athletic. The first two seasons were spent near the foot of the Southern League southern division before the doggy paddle developed into a stroke. "We appointed Chris Kinneer as manager in 1985

and have never looked back," John Durrant, the secretary, said.

Beazer Homes League champions last season, Dover are leading the GM Vauxhall Conference. Defence has not always been a feature at Dover — as William the Conqueror discovered in 1066 when he razed the town after his away win at Hastings — but now it is, with only five goals conceded in nine league matches.

With a goal apiece against Northwich on Saturday, David Leworthy and Corey Browne remain among the Conference's top scorers. "I have got players with good attitudes and everybody gets on here. At the top of it is the council," Kinneer said. There speaks a former Maidstone player. With a helpful council, Kent might still have two Football League clubs.

There is a self-destruct button being passed around Kent's football clubs. Maidstone, after three seasons in the fourth division, went bust. Hythe Town, FA Vase semi-finalists, did the same. Dartford, who gave a home to

David Powell finds the Conference leaders in the ascendant against Northwich Victoria

Maidstone, are homeless themselves, the stricken Beazer Homes League club now newly formed as Kent League tiddlers.

"One of the main factors in Maidstone's downfall was that they could not get relocated in Maidstone," Keith Masters, the Kent County Football Association secretary, said. "We had the county town in the Football League playing 20 miles away and the local authority did not want them back."

At Dover things are different and you have only to listen to the chairman of Sittingbourne, Mick Fletcher, to realise how fortunate they are. "The council are supporting Dover very well," Fletcher said. "It is a pity ours does not do the same."

While Sittingbourne use the profit from the sale of their ground for £6.52 million in 1990 to spend, spend, do following Dover towards the Eddlestone Insurance League, the Conference leaders have just tapped the council for another £20,000 to help with ground improvements needed to meet Football League requirements. It was £200,000 of council money which took Crabble up to Conference standard, but too late for promotion after winning the Beazer Homes League in 1990.

Husk admits to a feeling of déjà vu now that the slope across Dover's pitch would prevent them from joining the third division unless they can reduce the gradient in accordance with Football League specifications by December 31. Contractors are being consulted and, if two matches in early November can be rearranged, there would be six weeks during which the work could be done.

Kent is England's third largest shire county but has never had a club to the top half of the Football League,

unless you include Millwall and Charlton Athletic. "We have a half share in Charlton and Millwall," Masters claims, referring to the 1908 drawing of boundaries. As for pure Kent, Gillingham have been trying unsuccessfully for 35 years to reach the top half.

They have, it is said, lacked ambition, but Sittingbourne, challenging for a Conference place, and Dover are thinking ahead. Sittingbourne are developing their new ground, impressive even at its embryonic stage, and can afford to pay top players' wages. "The whole thing is being geared to take us to Premier League football," Fletcher said.

Masters noted: "It shows that all is not as bad in Kent as was being banded about 12 months ago." Near the famous white cliffs, the tide is turning. But a feat of endurance as challenging as Captain Webb's remains ahead.

DOVER ATHLETIC (4-4-2): M. Munden — O. Scott, I. O'Connell, A. Dunn, D. Walker — C. Browne, J. Jackson, J. Mann, J. Butler — C. Browne, D. Leworthy.
NORTHWICH VICTORIA (4-4-2): A. Bullock — B. Smith, J. S. S. (77m), M. Harwood, M. Jones, M. Smiths — B. Butler, K. Westray, J. P. D. (77m), M. Boyd, N. Hardy — M. O'Connor, C. Lewis.
Referee: P. Alcock.

Youthful promise holds out hope for Brighton

Overshadowed by huge debts, Barry Lloyd's side is not without assets.

Peter Robinson reports

WEMBLEY, May 1983. The FA Cup final, the dying embers of extra time and Michael Robinson finds a way through an exhausted Manchester United defence. Gordon Smith demands the ball, gets it and, from six yards, glory and English football's greatest prize are there for the taking. It was Brighton and Hove Albion's finest moment. Then Smith missed. His scuffed shot and Gary Bailey's save led to a replay and Brighton's chance of winning the Cup had gone.

Ten years later and Brighton are in London again. The High Court, October 1993. Now, £3.2 million in debt, the club is struggling to survive and is about to go into extra time once more. Facing a winding-up order it has a month, an extra month, to find £600,000 to satisfy the tax man and the VAT man. This time, there will be no replay and if the money or the means are not found, Brighton will probably go under.

The signs are not good for a club that surely should never have been in such trouble. Brighton were in the Cup Final and the first division, yet on Saturday, as supporters gathered outside the Goldstone Ground before the visit of Stockport County, a group perched on a wall agreed that if Brighton can survive beyond Christmas, they have some interesting fixtures in the new year. "If, though, was the operative word."

Asked if Brighton could escape, the manager-managing director could only say, "I hope so", and shrug — this from Barry Lloyd, an optimist. "We have four weeks to get our act together," Lloyd said as the focus switched, almost inevitably, away from his team's 1-1 draw with Stockport. "We have made a lot of progress in that direction and that was recognised by the court."

When all else fails, raising money means selling players, preferably promising young ones who fetch a higher price. This may explain why Lloyd was so unexpectedly chirpy on Saturday. He could look up at the efforts of his young team, with five teenagers in its ranks, and preen a little.

Myall, Tuck, Simmonds and, especially the goalkeeper, Rust, and the forward, Rummel, showed promise and genuinely surprised Stockport. Nogan, from close range, gave Brighton a ninth-minute lead and though Presce equalised on the half-hour, the youngsters stuck to their task. Even when McCarthy, already booked in the first half, was sent off after 60 minutes for elbowing Francis, they held firm.

While Lloyd laughed in the face of adversity, his opposite number at Stockport, Danny Bergara, was livid. Never mind that his side had just gone top of the second division. "If we keep playing like we did in the last 20 minutes, we will not stay very long," he said.

BRIGHTON (4-4-2): N. Rust — S. Myall, M. Tuck, J. Simmonds, J. Rummel — D. Nogan, S. Presce. STOCKPORT (4-4-2): J. Francis — J. Gannon, M. Jones, M. Smiths — B. Butler, K. Westray, J. P. D. (77m), M. Boyd, N. Hardy — M. O'Connor, C. Lewis.
Referee: P. Alcock.

Tranmere display rich qualities

THE search for the key to open the door to Premiership riches has led several Endsleigh Insurance League clubs to desperate measures — or at least desperate gambles. Graham Turner at Wolves has had an open cheque book; Derby County has spent around £11 million; Sunderland spent more than Newcastle in the close season.

Even Bolton invested nearly £1 million this summer, the total of John King's expenditure in gathering together the Tranmere Rovers squad that went back to the top of the first division ahead of its profligate rivals by beating Wanderers 2-1 on Saturday.

"We've always had to make our own players," King said, "but if you can bring in quality players to mix in, you've got a strong chemical that can blow people up." As Bolton can testify, among others.

Yet Tranmere's future is the least secure of all the contenders as their ambitious chairman, Peter Johnson, frets over the small gains and glances wistfully across the Mersey,

Peter Ball watches a team of homespun talent climb to the summit of the first division

where a place on the Everton board, even the chairmanship, may be waiting. Not even Saturdays crowd of 10,128 mollified him.

"Bolton brought two or three thousand with them," he said. "We ought to be able to get 10,000 of our own supporters for a local derby. We need games of 12,000 to 12,500 to break even. We have a different class of player here now."

With two internationals, Aldridge and Nevin, there is no disputing that. But with gates averaging 6,000, compared with the 1,200 when he rescued the club from extinction six years ago, and the team thriving, perhaps Johnson is being too impatient.

"The club's future is quite safe, whether I'm here or not," he said on Saturday, but there is little doubt that his continued input will be needed if they do move into the big league.

The team looks capable of doing so. With five regulars, including Aldridge, missing through injury, they were second best for long periods. Bolton playing with the greater composure, but determination and a stroke of luck at the last carried them through.

"We didn't play badly, but we didn't play well," Nevin, Tranmere's new captain, conceded. "Perhaps we spoilt people by the way we played last season, but we're scrapping now, so we've got another string to our bow in getting the results. We're working very hard, and to have lost an incredible number of key players and to still be where we are is a credit to us."

Bolton scrapped hard, too, in the nearest thing to a local derby either team can find in the first division. Alan Thompson, their £250,000 signing from Newcastle, looked an outstanding prospect without

making his skills count. "He needs to be far more positive as a person and on the pitch," Bruce Rich, the Bolton manager, said. "He has to find the self-motivation and desire to want to be top class, because he has the capability."

Nevin's desire was certain. Playing as a striker in the absence of Aldridge, he received a calf injury before half-time but, after Brown's header cancelled out Malkin's opening goal, got his reward when Stubbs, another of Bolton's richly promising young players, was too cool for his side's good and was dispossessed for Nevin to score his fifth goal of the season with a flash of the insouciant style Chelsea supporters will remember. He for one will be at home in the Premiership if Johnson's patience holds out.

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-4-2): E. Nelson, A. Thompson, D. Higgins, S. Gerrard, I. Nevin, J. Kennedy, D. McNamee, D. Bennett (sub: G. Branch, 77m), K. Brown, C. Malkin, P. Nevin.
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Brown, P. Brown, M. Seagraves, A. Stubbs, J. Phillips, O. Lee, J. McGowan, A. Kelly, M. Patterson, A. Thompson (sub: S. Green, 82), J. McGowan.
Referee: J. Kay.

Verveer's work-to-rule succeeds

Oliver Holt sees a Dutchman mastermind Millwall's victory over struggling West Brom

World Cup qualifier against England on Wednesday.

Although Verveer is a citizen of a nation whose team was riven by arguments over style during the last World Cup, a nation famed for the exquisite skills, its mastery of the concept of "total football": Verveer is one of the new breed of Dutchmen who realise that art and guile are not enough to bring success.

"When I was coming back from my injury I had to work very hard," he said. "I had to work for my life, just keep going, keep going. It is much more difficult to play in the English league. In Holland, the players are lazy. They just want to earn their money."

"They play a very technical style of football. They sit on the ball. They keep it. But that is why they always struggle in international football. They have not learned to work hard on the pitch like the West

Germans. I cried when Brazil lost to Italy in 1982 but they lost for the same reason."

Verveer has become an integral part of a Millwall team playing sharp, incisive football that is a credit to the manager, Mick McCarthy, and belies his own rugged pedigree. Helped by inept defending by the visitors, which at times verged on the bizarre, Millwall had enough first-half chances, as McCarthy said afterwards, "to have won three games."

Every time Millwall floated a ball into the penalty area or tried to walk it into the West Brom goal, they caused havoc. After Dolby had headed Rae's centre back across goal for Goodman to nod over the line in the seventh minute, Moralee shot wide, Verveer having walked through the defence to set him up.

After the mayhem of the Coca-Cola Cup tie against

Watford last week, when seven players were booked and three sent off, there was scarcely a bad word or a cross tackle. Rae, returning after a three-match ban, was the very epitome of gentlemanly conduct and he extended Millwall's lead seven minutes into the second half when he was tripped in the box and converted the penalty himself. Although West Brom pulled a goal back through Bradley 14 minutes from the end, they did not look like getting an equaliser.

"Rae's a good footballer," McCarthy said, echoing Verveer's appraisal of British players' qualities and adding a touch of Yorkshire grit to his estimation. "You can knock him down with a piece of 3-by-2 wood. That's what I like about him."

MILLWALL (4-2-1-2): K. Keller — R. Hudson, K. Cunningham, K. Stevens, T. Dolby — A. Roberts, A. Rae, P. Barber — E. Verveer — J. Goodman, J. Moralee (sub: B. Murray, 45m).
WEST BROM (4-1-3-2): T. Large — K. O'Hagan, O. Burrows, P. James, J. Broadbent, D. Brindley — J. Hamilton (sub: J. Mackie, 62), M. Mellon, K. Donovan — A. Hunt, B. Taylor.
Referee: I. Henley.

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THEATRE page 28
Eileen Atkins: A fine
West End staging for
one of the century's
oddest love-affairs

ARTS

BOOKS page 29
Humour and wit in the
autobiography of
Hollywood action man,
the director Don Siegel



OPERA: A triumph for Covent Garden and (below) a memorable performance of Terezin's musical legacy

Inspired by a near-perfect Wagner

Graham Vick's production of *Die Meistersinger* lasts six hours, and to Rodney Milnes it proves that the Royal Opera has regained its world-class status

The first night of any production of *Die Meistersinger* can be defined, like Wagner's apprentice, hardly perfect — it is too vast an undertaking. Six hours in the theatre, with the full complement of the Royal Opera on stage, backstage and in the pit, augmented by 50 extra chorus, 12 actors and nine acrobats, most of those involved tackling the piece for the first time: the wonder of Friday's premiere was that for much of the time perfection was approached.

It was an inspiring evening, one that justified "international opera" and the whole system of subsidy, and if a project of such magnitude is one way of taking a company's temperature, then the Royal Opera is in rude health. There are only about half a dozen houses in the world which could mount a show of this quality, and Covent Garden is one of them.

Bernard Haitink is unquestionably a great Wagner conductor, the only one (I think) since Goodall who recognised his mastery. Yet Haitink's first *Meistersinger* is utterly different, more mercurial, more sensuous, less craggy. He does not shrink grandeur, but never confuses it with bombast. He conjures up big, fat sound in the overture and the public scenes, but plainly revels in the more intimate conversational passages.

Many moments stay in the mind for the sheer beauty of Haitink's vision and the orchestral playing: the lead into Pogner's address, the whole of the second act duet for Eva and Sachs, the mystery of the Night Music, and the third-act prelude, one of those very Haitinkian moments when time stood still. As always, total clarity of texture is his watchword. There were things I had not heard properly before, mostly to do with Wagner's counterpoint and his wit: this was an especially good evening for the bassoons (chuckling disrespectfully) and horns (floating seraphically).

Graham Vick's production avoids *Meistersinger*-clique, yet not in any bloody-minded sense, save perhaps in one respect (later, put off the dread moment). Richard Hudson's decor replaces the merely picturesque with a clean-lined, 20th-century version of Nuremberg. Strong colours, plain surfaces and — most important — a false stage extending through the proscenium so that Haitink's musical intimacy is seconded by the singers being as close to us as possible. The equally colourful costumes are Breughel, but lived-in, with wrinkled thighs and somewhat optimistic codpieces. The second-act riot is spectacular, funny and very

frightening (at least for those with vertigo), and the near-collapse of civilisation-as-we-know-it is brilliantly suggested in its aftermath.

But mainly it is a matter of *Personenregie*, of what Vick contrives in collaboration with his excellent cast. One performance is so fresh, so inventive, as almost to throw the piece off balance: Thomas Allen's Beckmesser. His body language is vividly communicative — fussing with his specs, prissily pursed lips, limp half-smiles, eyes suddenly blazing with malevolence, or sitting for his aria of hate in the study scene with knees pressed tightly together, the very picture of an introverted, frustrated pedant. He sings Beckmesser's music with spell-binding eloquence, and no amount of weather-chart makeup can disguise the fact that he is a good-looking chap, which makes the casting of his rival for Eva's hand extremely tricky. Luckily the Royal Opera has Gösta Winbergh, a noted David who has just switched to Walther, also a good-looking chap, and one with burnished-gold tones: he uttered not a strained sound the whole evening, which really is saying something.

Nancy Gustafson's teenage Eva is enchantingly unaffected, her silvery soprano perfect for the part; her German needs attention. Deon van der



John Tomlinson, left, and Thomas Allen, part of the excellent cast in Covent Garden's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

Walt's first attempt at David will be much better later in the run: on the first night he was busy producing more tone than was necessary. Relax Anne Howells (Magdalene) and Gwynne Howell (Pogner) give finely detailed performances, and Mark Beesley's Nightwatchman reminds one

how difficult the role is from the point of view of pitch. The one controversial element is John Tomlinson's first Sachs. There is little of the poet to this cobbler, little inwardness, little of the potential wooer. Vick has him play the man as a tetchy old lion with indigestion after eating one

antelope too many. His bad-tempered public dressing-down of Walther at the end should earn him a sock on the jaw, not all-round reconciliation. Simply in its volume, Tomlinson's huge voice throws the many dialogues off balance, but if he relaxes the pressure, pitch wavers: Sachs

is not a *Sprechgesang* role, and there was scarcely a true legato line the whole evening. I just wish this much-loved artist could go back and re-study the role from scratch.

Other reservations? The Masters are near-submerged in tacky Father Christmas beards (burn them), the

Nightwatchman could be renamed the Mid-Afternoon-watchman (the only miscalculation in Wolfgang Göbbel's lighting plot), and Walther's last-act costume must be rethought before the next performance: the poor man looks as if he's off to a drag ball in Crouch End.

Music with a moral tone

In the last few weeks the Czech town of Terezin has found an enduring place on the musical map. For those who missed the television documentaries, magazine and newspaper articles, Terezin was the transit camp from which 140,000 Jews were transported to Auschwitz and other death camps between 1942 and 1945. Musical composition and performance of a high order took place there, and in recent months a good deal of this music has been revived both live and on disc.

Among the composers active in Terezin were Viktor Ullmann and Hans Krása, pupils of Schoenberg and Zemlinsky respectively; both were subsequently taken to Auschwitz and heard of no more. On Thursday night, as part of the South Bank's Czech Festival, Mecklenburgh Opera, one of our leading small-scale companies, presented Ullmann's *Emperor of Atlantis* and Krása's children's opera *Brundibár* in a double bill. Mecklenburgh has made something of a speciality of operas from central Europe and its staging of *The Emperor of Atlantis* in 1988 — its first major undertaking — was a memorable achievement.

The opera deals with the expansionist ruler of the kingdom of Atlantis, whose reign

of terror causes Death to go on strike, precipitating a crisis to which the Emperor is forced to capitulate by giving himself up to Death. The allegory was not lost on the SS officers in Terezin and the work was suppressed after the dress rehearsal.

John Abulafia's production in fact highlights the pathetic nature of the beleaguered Emperor. Richard Halton's portrayal, too, presents a more rounded figure than a mere dictator and attracts a degree of sympathy — especially in his final monologue, accompanied by subdued strings (the orchestra played superbly for Anne Manson).

Gwion Thomas was a strongly projected Loudspeaker (and a suitably uncouth master of ceremonies), while Maureen Braithwaite and Rebecca de Pont Davies were admirable as Pierrette and The Drummer. Apologies were made for vocal indisposition in the cases of Brian Bannatyne-Scott (Death) and Robert Horn (Pierrot) and this

may have had something to do with the sense of restraint that hung over the production. My memory is of a staging (and performance) altogether more vibrant, energetic and convincing in 1988.

Brundibár was quite a different matter. It is a lovable piece, in the tradition of fairy-tale opera, and was given more than 50 times by children in Terezin. Like all good fairytales there is a moral: in this case, innocence and compassion triumphing over tyranny. It is a moral that must have gladdened the hearts of the prisoners of Terezin as they awaited their fate. And the joy of Abulafia's production (designed by Christopher Baugh and lit by Claire Tattersall) is that it recreates the atmosphere of those extraordinary stagings in Terezin — the performers' overcoats with yellow stars suspended above the stage, the set based on original designs — while delivering a universal message of hope.

The singers, from Ronald Corp's New London Children's Choir, excelled themselves, and Manson's lively, disciplined direction was always sympathetic to the deceptive simplicity of Krása's tuneful, jazzy score.



Richard Halton in Ullmann's *Emperor of Atlantis*

BARRY MILLINGTON

Waving a cigar the size of a small telegraph pole, Lord Grade strains his collar-buttons and reminisces about Sir Kenneth Clark's apprentice art programmes for ATV at the end of the 1950s. "He never got fired," he barks (rather as though someone had just asserted the contrary). He wiggles his telegraph pole improbably, and continues. "I knew that he had the talent. I knew that he had the knowledge."

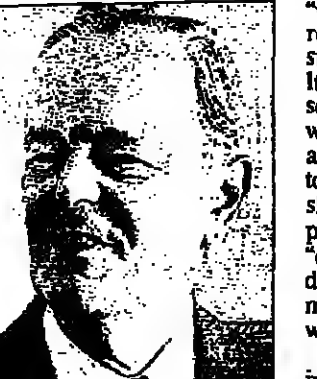
The idea that Sir Kenneth Clark — the man who, in *Civilisation* (1969), famously beamed with benign pride in front of the masterpieces of western art ("What could be more agreeable?") — got off to a shaky start in broadcasting was rather a surprise. But it was also, well, agreeable. Last night's *Kenneth Clark 1903-83* (BBC2) was illuminating in many matters — Clark's career at the National Gallery and the Independent Television Authority, his enjoyment of female company, his isolating childhood, his consoling childhood, his ultimate consoling, his ultimate straddling of high culture and mass entertainment (sharing the cover of a 1969 *Radio Times* with Lulu's Song for Europe) — but it was ultimate

TELEVISION

An old Civilisation, but it's a hard one to beat

by those early, blurry stabs at art programmes that proved most fascinating, if only because they showed how difficult it was.

Clark was the voice of patrician authority, the voice of informed passion (a voice automatically eschewed by modern arts television, of course), yet still he made mistakes. In unfamiliar black-and-white clips, he offered live, suited studio lectures, including the bizarre "Is Art Necessary?" (1958), in which a Clark family pet — a Great Dane — was held up as a paradigm of beauty. It was a dodgy proposition, obviously, but still Sir Kenneth struggled heroically to elucidate the aesthetic ideal in doggy terms (lines, curves, er, smoothness), while the evidently self-conscious pooch did its level best to look lovely, albeit in an abstract doggy kind of way.



Sir Kenneth: shaky start

But television was evidently more tolerant of flops in those days. Sir Kenneth, given lots of second chances, finally discovered his niche. Nothing shook his confidence in his ability to appreciate beauty. His son Colin described Sir Kenneth's love of art as something that gave him solace

"without needing anything in return", but it seemed a strange remark, in the context. It conjured an image of a bent, selfish, miserable collector, worshipping a masterpiece in a vault. Whereas Clark's urge to broadcast his connoisseurship (yes, actually, most people do know that the word "connoisseur" includes the definition "he who knows") meant that the arrangement was hardly unreciprocal.

Art historians were brought in, mainly to explain why Sir Kenneth's personal view of civilisation is now, in critical terms, so outmoded: his determination to link all creative endeavour into a single, edifying story; his insistence on the now unfashionable notion that some art is simply "better" (of a Leonardo drawing, "You can draw differently, but you can't draw better"). But, on the other hand, what can be more



LYNNE TRUSS

CONCERT

Fantasy comes to life

ANYONE who has ever indulged in voluptuous fantasies about Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto — imagining it even bigger than it really is, more seductive in its lyricism, more sensuous in its colouring, more exhilarating in its rhythms, more exciting at the dynamic extremes — will have recognised Alexander Toradz's interpretation. Anyone who, on the other hand, prefers the real thing, as defined by the aristocratic demeanour and technical precision of the composer's own recording, will have rejected it in horror.

In either case, no one could fail to acknowledge that Toradz is an extraordinary musician. Few soloists involved with a work as familiar as this retain such a fresh relationship with it, feel it so intensely and respond so art-

fully. The Oliver Knussen piece, an off-shoot of his Sendak opera *Higglety, Pigglety Pop!*, was no doubt included as a friendly gesture to the schoolchildren who, after working on a long-term project associated with the Berlioz, came to Symphony Hall by the coachload.

It was surely not a good idea, however, to overload the programme in this way: even Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra have limited electrical energy even in the *Symphonic Fantastique* and even when the reverberation chamber is wide open to enhance the effects. Brilliantly done and cleverly stage-managed, it was appealing to resources already stretched before the interval.

At the centre of an overlong programme, the Rachmaninov made the preceding *Way to Castle Yonder* seem pale in comparison and upstaged even the *Symphonic Fantastique*.

GERALD LARNER

ROCK

Playing it loud and cool

THE Lemonheads' big break came in 1992, with their hit version of Paul Simon's "Mrs Robinson". For a band whose real claim to fame rests on the prodigious talent of songwriter/guitarist Evan Dando, succeeding through a cover must have been frustrating. Except that in concert Dando's own songs sound like the trashing of a string of pop classics. Brilliant melodies and smart arrangements are subjected to thundering drums, squawking guitars.

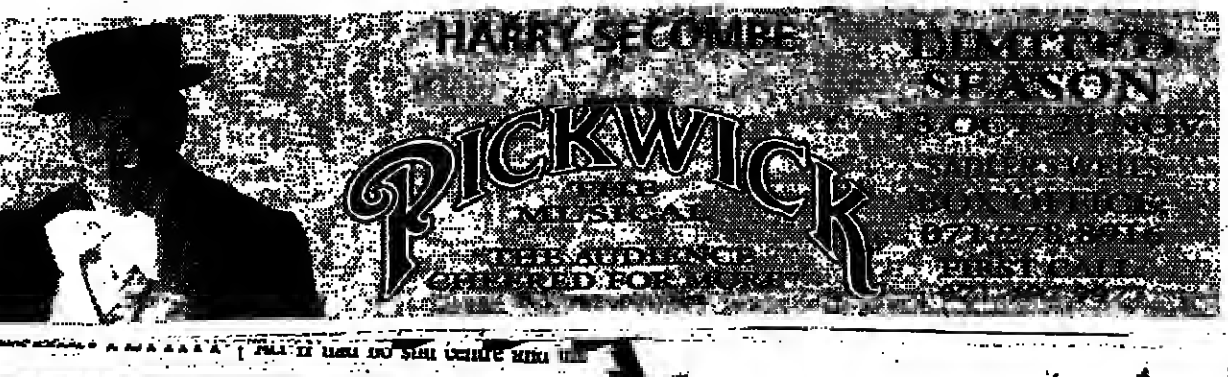
On record — last year's runaway success *It's a Shame About Ray* and the current *Come On Feel the Lemonheads* — there is a restless mixture of the acoustic and the electric with direct echoes of folk and country among the pop and rock. The American trio's live performance, however, begins as a more brutal affair, a blind date between Nirvana and the Eagles.

The first three songs at the University of East Anglia flashed by in a raucous flurry in which the tunes only just survived, but by half-way through a set of some two dozen songs Dando hit a more relaxed, eclectic vein. The breezy charms of his own "Great Big No" and "It's About Time" were followed by "Frank Mills" from *Hair*. The infectious new single, "Into Your Arms", a collage of Californian surf music and 1960s New York pop, continued the show's exotic repertoire of styles.

Dando, though, makes it all seem so ridiculously easy. He doesn't really sell the songs. They get the same languid delivery, the same plain tone: a gentle, unselfish moan.

But with the help of David Ryan's drums and Nic Dalton's bass, and with the benefit of tunes as sweet as condensed milk, they get bought anyway. Dando occasionally shakes his head and the lights flash discreetly but otherwise everything remains nonchalantly cool. It is the kind of cool which requires Dando to cloak his good looks in uncharismatic black rollneck sweater. It is also one that denies any signs of extrovert display. Even the end, when Dando induces his guitar to feedback, is an exercise in understatement. Where others like to batter their speaker cabinets into agonised submission, Dando lays his guitar upon the amplifier with the delicacy of an expert on the *Antiques Roadshow*, sips a drink and walks off before ambling back for a five-song encore.

JOHN STREET



Inside the city of mammon

The streets of London are paved with insolvency notices rather than gold, but it has other riches to offer, writes Peter Ackroyd

London is a city of sorrowful mysteries, its twin deities are the God of money and the Magog of commercial power, so it is only appropriate that Simon Jenkins's book of essays should open with the buying and selling of a small girl for the sake of urban profit. In the late 17th century Mary Davies was heir to some 'fertile and swamp land' close by Westminster, and as a result became a prime piece of portable property to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. She was purchased by Sir Thomas Grosvenor, the surname suggests what happened to her land — and eventually she grew insane, but not before becoming an example of the private horrors which lie beneath the very ground and buildings of the capital.

It has always been the same: as Jenkins notes here, "London is perpetually 'in crisis'. It is eternally grinding to a halt, seizing up, on the point of collapse. The streets have never been paved with that famous precious metal but 'with insolvency notices', and in one admirable essay Jenkins charts the economic history of the capital as one continuous mercantile cycle. It is perhaps foolish, then, for the more rarefied architectural historians to complain about the ugliness of much modern London architecture: it has always been an ugly city, built upon the imperatives of commerce rather than civilisation, and its nature is necessarily reflected both in its private dwellings and public monuments.

Jenkins has no doubt seen most of them. He is a great city walker, although his essays on that subject, "The Finest Walk in London", might annoy his Cockney readers: he nominates for that grand title the route between Richmond and Ham which, to the Londoner, is mere countryside. The true walks have to

THE SELLING OF MARY DAVIES

And Other Writings

By Simon Jenkins

John Murray, £17.99

THE LONDON ENCYCLOPAEDIA

Edited by Ben Weinreb and Christopher Hibbert

Paperback, £25

be through alleys and courts, along narrow thoroughfares and decaying walls, where the only grass is to be glimpsed sprouting from the stones of desolate cemeteries. The great tradition in the city has been that of the solitary pedestrian: not the boulevardier or flâneur of Paris, but the continuous extended walking of a Londoner who in the course of a morning can reach districts as diverse as Bloomsbury and Clerkenwell, Islington and Whitechapel.

Jenkins himself has the soul of the lonely traveller who, after forsaking the suspect delights of Richmond, can expatiate on the peace of St Stephen Walbrook or the wonderful decay of Bunhill Fields. There is a fine essay here upon that great solace of the Londoner, the City churchyard, which is generally the home of vagrants or of office workers with their sandwiches: they seem to be guarding such blackened hearths of London as St Ann Blackfriars or St Peter upon Cornhill, waiting patiently for the fire to flare up again.

There has been much nonsense written recently about London as a theme park and Jenkins quite properly attacks the trend. He writes of those cultural journalists who have pretended to lament the advent of museum culture or marketed nostalgia. Nothing of the kind

is happening in London — it was much more of a historical theme park in the late 18th century, that great age of exhibitions and visual display. But the fundamental point is that Jenkins has too true a historical sense to be misled by contemporary fashions in journalism or anything else. One of the most spirited essays in this book, "Thank God For Tourists", celebrates the openness and plenitude of the great city while the finest piece in the collection describes the medieval barns and churches which are still to be found in the environs of Heathrow Airport.

There is an excellent appreciation of Pevsner, a charming account of the topographers of Hampstead and, perhaps more surprisingly, an even-handed disquisition on the work of Siegfried — in which place he makes some remarks on the politics of London which might profitably have been extended. It is a clear loss, for example, that London no longer has a true metropolitan voice: the corporations and the City speak for one part of the past, but there has also always been a radical tradition in London with its own unique accent. It should not have been allowed to pass away. Or, rather, it has not passed away: it is simply awaiting its own restoration.

That is why Jenkins's central argument is so important. If there is a continuous theme here beyond the confines of London itself, it is his demand that the past be restored to living use — not ironised by post-modernists, or vandalised by politicians, or patronised by scholars, but returned to the citizens to whom it belongs. In one interesting polemic, "The Cult of the Ruin", Jenkins asserts "If there is a moral duty at stake, it is surely to pass the relics of the past in good order to the future." Of course each period "restores the past to its own taste", but that is the



Park Lane by David Gentleman, from David Gentleman's London (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99 pbk)

only way in which it can be kept alive.

This is as good an introduction as any to *The London Encyclopedia* which, as a survey of London, is comprehensive enough to be for all practical purposes indispensable. A single page provides accounts of D.H. Evans, Evans Music and Super Rooms of the 19th century, Evalina Children's Hospital, the

Everyman Cinema and the Evil May Day of 1517. There are entries on every conceivable aspect of London history and topography (including, in this revised edition, such new landmarks as the Groucho Club and Canary Wharf), all of which are written with panache and authority. If you want to know anything about the great fire at Harrods in 1883, the history of

Ladbroke Grove, the Wild Beast Show on Peckham Common, or the great margarine manufacturers of Southall, this is the place to look. It is not without its moments of humour and, although it is too long a compendium to be devoured at once, it remains a perpetual instructive delight to those who, like Simon Jenkins, wish to be re-engaged with the past in a dialogue of the living.

PAPERBACKS

LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE
By Laura Esquivel
Black Swan, £5.99

AFTER sex and shopping, sex and cooking, Esquivel's novel — a runaway success in her native Mexico and now a film — engagingly combines the worlds of food and fantasy in the story of Tita and Pedro. They are prevented from marrying for 22 years because Tita, as the youngest daughter, has to stay at home in the Mexican tradition to look after her ghastrly mother. In despair, Pedro marries her sister Rosaura so that he can stay close to Tita, and the novel is one great sigh of longing, a sublimation of sex through cookery, with appropriate recipes supplied. Funny, surreal and steamy in every sense.

SIN

By Josephine Hart
Arrow, £5.99

COLD, envious Ruth, not content with stealing her cousin's clothes, also steals her husband. This book is about possession driven by envy, and Josephine Hart's speciality, sexual obsession. The cousins are colour-coded: good, blonde Elizabeth wears unstructured white shirts; bad, brunette Ruth wears dark, clinging red and black. Hart does not allow these extreme personalities any human variety and only their young sons, described through their school reports, are wholly believable. Although Ruth gets her man, it is a pyrrhic victory as he never really surrenders himself and a tragedy finally eclipses her obsession. The images of this slick, stark tale linger in the mind but somehow they do not seem real.

Contributors: Hazel Leslie, Katherine Bergen

The best action man in the business

Mark Le Fanu

A SIEGEL FILM
An Autobiography
By Don Siegel
Faber, £20

Killers, an acid thriller starring Lee Marvin and Clu Gulager, based on the short story by Hemingway) — as well as a cult science fiction film, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956). Subsequently his directorial name became linked to a cycle of non-Western Clint Eastwood pictures: *The Beguiled*, *Two Mules for Sister Sara* and, most notoriously, *Dirty Harry* (1972).

Is Siegel an auteur? Or rather was he, for the director died in 1991, a fact curiously omitted both from the cover and the introduction of what

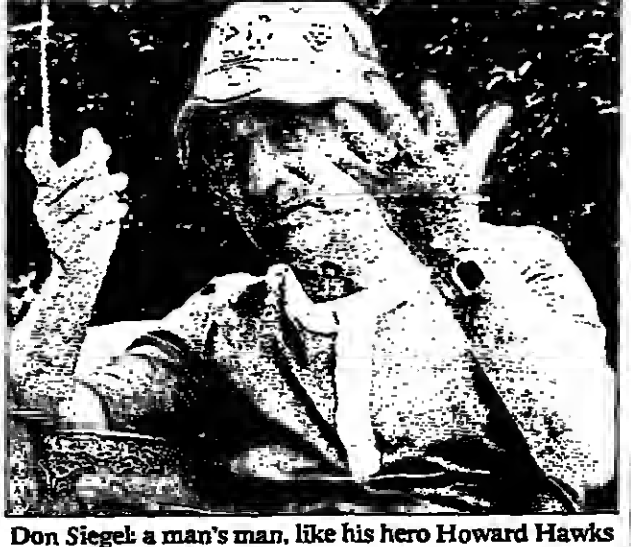
turns out to be a posthumous memoir. The question is not merely a theological one, since his autobiography is — like so many film books these days — nearly 500 pages long. Unless the films themselves have an intrinsic aesthetic merit, it is asking rather a lot of the general reader to hold out unaided until the last page.

As well as a problem of length there is a problem of proportion. Towards the end of his career, Siegel's energy tailed off, as happens with a number of directors. But the films in question — forgotten television fodder such as *Charley Varrick*, *The Black Windmill*, *Telefon* — are treated in this book in as much detail, if not more, as the movies which established his reputation.

There are other odd things about the book (in addition to its annoying lack of an index). Though it purports to be a full-dress memoir, it is in fact exclusively about Siegel's public, professional career — and here, it is true, he names names, and is admirably candid. However, one has to turn

to an encyclopedia to fill in the gaps: to discover about his early life, for example, that he trained as an actor at Rada. This English interlude must be the origin of the curiously jostling, facetious, gentleman-Joe personality that comes over in the dialogue which Siegel liberally punctuates the narrative. Siegel, one notices, always gets the better of his adversaries, usually with his fists. Trained first as an editor, and then as a second unit director — in which capacity he anonymously provided some of the best action se-

quences in the business — Siegel is every inch a man's man, in the same mould as his heroes Howard Hawks and Raoul Walsh. There is a lot of drinking and truculence in these memoirs, but also, it must be said, an engaging good humour, a real wit. One can't help quite liking the man, despite everything. Ignore the longeurs, and the book contains fascinating information about Hollywood in its heyday: particularly about the vicious studio system which, under Jack Warner, "indentured" Siegel for ten unhappy years at the outset of his career. He got out, and became an independent filmmaker, pioneering the way for others. I am not sure he is quite an auteur. As for his humanity, he boasts a lot in these pages, but maybe in the end he was a rather brave mensel.



Don Siegel: a man's man, like his hero Howard Hawks

Tumbler takes a fall

Stephen Davy

A BIG LIFE

By Susan Johnson

Faber, £14.99

ANOTHER GOOD LOVING BLUES

By Arthur Flowers

Secker & Warburg, £8.99 pbk original

From pink gins with the bright young things in the jazz bars of Alexandria, to fried breakfasts in Cockney boarding houses with double-jointed acrobats: Sue Johnson's second novel ranges through a fashionably vast and extraordinary array of social and geographical extremes.

Seen through the tinsel dusted eyes of tumbler Billy Hayes, the book teeters on the brink of magical realism but aims at something more ordinary though just as complex: to explore the inner life of a soaring idealist who inevitably must fall to earth. Billy's appeal is his innocence, and the lustre of glamour he casts over the mundaneness of childhood years of poverty in Sydney are suffused with a charged beauty. Though Billy's career takes him to the London Palladium he is still exposed as an anachronism in the age of the big and small screen. As warning voices sound from a very different, humdrum world of practicalities — voices that stifle us as much as Billy — we realise that our hero is exiled in mind as well as in body. Naivety not only makes him vulnerable, it is his own form of egotism. When he is finally tumbled out of dreamland and sued for divorce, we must reassess Billy as he does his life. Perhaps he is just as self-serving as his wife always seemed to be.

It is to Johnson's credit that this formidable tonal balancing does not falter but moves

into another act, beyond pathos. After magic and realism comes a new conception of just where "the big life" really lies. It is in opening to the potency of more simple human joys. It is in the reopening of the heart after suffering. Another Good Loving Blues has an equally distinctive voice. Flowers, like the blues

players of whom he writes, is continually reinventing the language and its rhythms. The grammar and vocabulary of the blues and patois of the deep American South blend with a fine sense of black history and music. This is the journey of "conjurwoman" Melvira Dupree and her lover Lucas Bodeen who has given his heart to playing the blues. The passing miles and years chart the trials and growth of their relationship as they learn to adapt to the changing face of the American deep south between the wars. The story has the weight and compass of an odyssey. As in *A Big Life*, the real goal is to learn to seek satisfaction beyond the small self, to learn to love.

BURY YOURSELF IN FIELDING

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WHEN Henry Fielding wrote *The Grub Street Opera* in 1731 the magnificent mix of comedy, music and satire was deemed so subversive it even banned its initial rehearsals. Now, Fielding's lost masterpiece has received its world premiere — and the Theatre Club has arranged a weekend break for members to see the show at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds. The package also includes two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast, and Sunday lunch, at the Angel hotel in Bury, as well as a special guided tour of the Theatre Royal — and more. The all-inclusive cost is £160 per person. Telephone 0284 769505 for bookings and further information.

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Ancestral verses

POETRY

Gareth Reeves and Michael Hofmann are both poets who it is difficult to read the work of either of them without thinking of the verses the father wrote before. Yet each is sufficiently his own man to make such comparisons seem more than usually odious.

Gareth Reeves's *Listening In* (Carcanet, £6.95) is his second collection, and it continues in that vein of quiet but quirky observation which he began with *Real Stories* (1984). His verse lacks drive or attack, but fashions something charming in their place — a chatty honesty about its own timidities. "Umbilical Cord", in which the poet faints when confronted by the imagined realities of birth at an antenatal class, is typical of the fun he makes of himself. Yet that poem ends bravely. Take a deep breath. Now for the real thing, and in a way it prepares us for the book's central achievement.

That achievement lies in the sequence entitled "Going Blind", in which he recalls his father James Reeves (1909-73), one of the finest neglected poets of the century. Where

otherwise Gareth Reeves has tended to look for poems in neutral occasions, moments of doubt or hesitation, and fought shy of letting himself go, emotionally or intellectually, here he constructs nothing less than a living memorial in verse. His father's blindness, his love of music, his little cigars, his childing of ambition (*He liked his high art to keep a low profile*), even his way of shaving himself by touch with an electric razor while sitting at his desk — all these things are woven into a portrait of the man which is the better (and the truer to its subject's predilections) for being a series of overlapping snapshots.

Gareth Reeves's rhythms do not have that authority which comes from a congruent attention to form, but I suspect that in this regard he has reacted against what he knows he cannot match in his father's own work. No one could doubt the affection which has inspired this sequence.

The book also contains a good poem, "Gaps", about Norman Cameron, and another, "Bob Tombs", about Robert Graves. The latter has Graves saying to young Gareth, *Difficult being in the poetry biz? With your dad, and then noting I had that problem too*. Robert Graves's father having been Alfred Percival Graves, a minor Irish poet of some charm. By making his difficult poetic inheritance part of the subject of his verse, Gareth Reeves, paradoxically, has written his most original work to date.

In his last book of poems, *Acrimony* (1986), Michael Hofmann dealt with his relationship with his father, the German writer Gert Hofmann. The work in his new collection, *Corona*, *Corona* (Faber, £12.99 and £5.99 pbk) takes obvious delight in compassing an unusual variety of moods and matters. Here are poems about Hart Crane and Malcolm Lowry and travels in Mexico. I like their talkative impatience.

ROBERT NYE



...but national vocational qualifications could be selling young people short, says Jenny Shackleton, principal of Wirral Metropolitan College.

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EDUCATION

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Applications are invited from Applied Mathematicians for two Chairs in the Department of Theoretical Mechanics. One of these posts arises from the recent death of Professor T G Rogers, and the second is in anticipation of the retirement of Professor A J M Spencer FRs in August 1994. The appointments will be from dates to be arranged. One of the Professors may be appointed Head of the Department of Theoretical Mechanics.

The Department of Theoretical Mechanics is located in the Faculty of Engineering. It was graded four in both the 1989 and 1992 research assessment exercises, and the new Professors will be expected to build on this established reputation. The applicants should have strong research records in Applied Mathematics, preferably related to the current research strengths of the Department. There are at present twelve full-time academic staff and further expansion of the Department is envisaged in the University Plan.

The Department is responsible for the teaching of mathematics throughout the Faculty of Engineering, for the Honours B.Sc course in Mathematics-with-Engineering and, with the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, for the B Eng Joint Honours course in Electronic Engineering and Mathematics. Close contacts are maintained with the Engineering Departments and the Mathematics Department. Informal enquiries are welcome and may be addressed to Professor A J M Spencer (tel 0602 513836).

Further details and application forms, returnable not later than 15 November, from the Director of Personnel, The University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD (tel 0602 515781). Ref No 1706.



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The position is available immediately for five years with additional five year terms pending reviews of performance. Further information concerning the duties of the position may be obtained from Dr W J Stuart, Director, NCPGG (tel: 081 81 503 4299, facsimile 081 81 503 4545).

INFORMATION about the general conditions of appointment and selection criteria may be obtained from the Director, Personnel Services at the University, or from Appointments (42175), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 35 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF (tel: 071 587 8572 ext. 206; fax 071 583 0568).

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The University reserves the right to make enquiries of any person regarding any candidate's suitability for appointment, not to make an appointment or to appoint by invitation.

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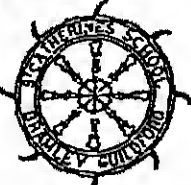


THE WHITGIFT FOUNDATION

TRINITY SCHOOL of JOHN WHITGIFT HEAD

The Court of Governors invite applications for the Headship which becomes vacant on 1st January 1995, on the retirement of Mr Robert Wilson M.A., after 22 years as Headmaster. Trinity School is an Independent Day School with 850 boys aged 10 to 18, and is represented on HMC. Particulars of the post may be obtained from The Clerk to the Whitgift Foundation, The Whitgift Foundation, North End, Croydon CR9 1SS. The closing date for applications is 30th October 1993.

CORPORATION OF THE CRANLEIGH AND BRAMLEY SCHOOLS



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Applications are invited for the post of Head of St Catherine's School for Girls, Bramley, Surrey, which will fall vacant on 1st September 1994.

St Catherine's is a Church of England foundation school for approximately 600 girls, both day and boarding.

For full particulars and an application form, please write to the Bursar, St Catherine's School, Station Road, Bramley, Guildford, GU5 0DF. The closing date for applications is 25th October 1993.

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which will become vacant from 1st September 1994 on the appointment of Miss E J. Panton M.A. Oxo, as Headmistress of Bolton School, Girls' Division.

There are 655 girls in the Senior School, including a Sixth Form of 152, and a Junior School of 268.

The School participates in the Assisted Places Scheme.

Further details may be obtained from: Mr P. S. Gaunt M.A. F.C.A., Clerk to the Governors, Merchant Taylors' Schools, 186 Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 0QP. Closing date for applications: Friday 29th October 1993.

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

BURSAR

The Council of Marlborough College invites applications for the post of Bursar. The successful applicant is likely to be not less than 40, should have had proven and appropriate personnel, administrative and financial management experience and be available to start not later than April 1994.

Further particulars and details of the application procedure may be obtained from:

The Master, Marlborough College, Wiltshire, SN8 1PA

Closing date for applications
5th November 1993

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION



ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL

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St Mary's School is a specialist co-educational day and boarding school with 55 pupils. It offers outstanding musical training in all instruments and voice, together with an excellent academic education.

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ETON COLLEGE

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Up to four scholarships are offered to boys who will be over ten and under eleven years of age on 1 September 1994 and who are currently attending a maintained primary school.

After two (or three) years at a selected preparatory school, either as a day boy or a boarder, a Junior Scholar takes up a reserved place at Eton. Financial assistance will be provided to meet up to the value of full fees if necessary to pay for both preparatory school education and Eton.

The Junior Scholarship Examination will be held at Eton on Saturday, 5 February; the closing date for applications is Wednesday 12 January.

Applications forms and further particulars of Junior Scholarships can be obtained from: The Registrar, Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 6DB.

SCHOLARSHIPS

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY BURSARIES

In 1993 Marlborough College marked the 150th anniversary of its foundation as a charitable school by the award of commemorative bursaries.

Mindful of its foundation, the College plans to make similar awards in 1994. The bursaries will be worth up to 50% of the fees (index-linked) for up to five years.

The awards are offered to boys and girls who wish to come to Marlborough in September 1994, either at 13 for five years or at 16 for 2 years in the Sixth Form, as either boarders or day pupils.

Successful candidates will show outstanding promise in one or more of academic work, art, drama, music and sport. These bursaries are intended for those for whom an independent school education would not be possible without financial help.

To find out more about the Bursaries in particular, and about Marlborough generally, please telephone (0672 515511), fax (0672 516234) or write to the Registrar, Jeremy Woodhouse, at Marlborough College, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1PA. He will be delighted to send further information and to arrange a visit.

Marlborough College is a charity (No 45911) founded in 1843 to provide education.

THE TIMES

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION GUIDE

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EDUCATION

The opting-out machine rolls on

As England's 1,000th school prepares to escape local authority control, John O'Leary introduces the views of a politician, an authority official and a head



'It is easier to dream dreams than to make them work'
John Patten

Opting out may have slipped down the educational agenda as controversy raged over testing and curriculum issues, but the centrepiece of Conservative educational reform is about to return to the limelight.

Ministers are already preparing to celebrate England's 1,000th vote for grant-maintained status, and this week John Patten, the education secretary, will name the man who will head the new quango to administer the new sector. On the other side of the argument, a new pressure group, Parents Opposed to Opting Out, will see that the issue is kept before the public.

Both sides see the new school year as crucial to the government's plans for 2,000 schools to opt out before the next election. Not only is time running short to hit the target, but it remains to be seen how the political climate influences parents' decisions.

As ever, the statistics can be made to prove almost anything. Ministers stress the 83 per cent of last month's parental ballots in favour of opting out without mentioning that there were only 11, their opponents report a slowing of the trend, playing down the fact that they still lose most votes. There can be little doubt about

the popularity with parents of most of the schools that have opted out. But the momentum behind grant-maintained status, which seemed unstoppable a year ago, did appear to be faltering in the summer. In the secondary sector, which remains the government's chief target, 38 per cent of ballots went against change, and the proportion was higher still outside the limited area where opting out is most widespread.

A number of factors could be responsible. Some of the counties which have been the strongholds of opting out changed hands in May's local elections, and both the handling of the testing dispute and the slump in the government's

popularity could have had an effect.

Eight local authorities still account for half of all grant-maintained secondary schools, and 42 authorities still have none. Although the overall numbers are boosted by increased opting out among primary schools, there must be a danger that the pool of secondary candidates will begin to run dry unless other parts of the country can be persuaded to join in more enthusiastically.

Mr Patten has a number of initiatives in mind to encourage them to do so, including a requirement for annual secret ballots by every governing body. He has already announced plans to convert existing schools into technology colleges, limiting eligibility to those in the grant-maintained sector. Before the end of the month he will add new measures designed to break into virtually uncharted territory in the north-west and north-east.

He expects the Funding Agency for Schools, which will come into operation next April, to prove a catalyst for further development. The new agency is already set to share responsibility for secondary school admissions in almost 50 local authority areas, and Mr Patten expects at least half of the authorities to be in this position by April. In addition, he is confident that groups of parents and volun-

tary organisations will take advantage of the opportunity to set up their own schools. By next year, the first schools judged to be failing their pupils and taken under the control of education associations, could also be grant-maintained. And, Treasury willing, there may be opted-out schools specialising in the arts or modern languages, as well as technology.

It is easier to dream dreams than to make them work," Mr Patten says. "But we are seeing a number of things fitting together so that I think we will have between a half and two-thirds of secondary schools grant-maintained by the time we go into an election. That will mean an irreversible change."

Ann Taylor, Labour's education spokeswoman, disagrees. Her party conference reinforced the commitment to abolishing grant-maintained status and returning schools to local authority control.

"The political climate in education could not be clearer," Mrs Taylor says. "Labour wants to take power away from the centre and give it back to local people. Mr Patten wants to run all 24,000 schools from Whitehall. To opt for GM status is to opt into central control."



'Labour wants to take power away from the centre'
Ann Taylor

Seven years after the revolution

Michael Fallon makes a time traveller's report on the death of the last LEA

It is the year 2000, and the Funding Agency for Schools has confirmed that Durham Education Authority, the last of the old-style LEAs, is to be wound up. This summer's successful ballot at Grimshaw Comprehensive took the number of grant-maintained schools in the county over the 75 per cent threshold set by the 1993 Education Act.

Durham was one of a dwindling band of mainly northern councils that hung on to its schools monopoly in the late 1990s before yielding to the inevitable pressure from parents and governors for independence. Durham's functions now pass to the Funding Agency through the council will continue to handle welfare work such as truancy and the assessment of pupils with special needs.

In its seventh annual report, the agency reports substantial progress: From just 1,000 grant-maintained schools in October 1993, it now looks after more than 10,000. But there have been big changes along the way.

The total number of schools has dropped sharply. Almost 500 under-subscribed secondary schools have closed, as have scores of small primary schools. Exact numbers are hard to compare with 1993 because of the emergence of "cluster" schools sharing specialist teachers and senior management.

There has also been a sharp decline in the number of surplus places. Funding by pupil numbers according to a simple national formula, and the regular publication of GCSE scores on a school-by-school basis, have helped to drive up parental expectations, and thus to eliminate spare capacity.

The seven-year summary of school results, already familiar to parents making their choice of school and to governors in setting fixed-term performance-related contracts for their headteachers, will be of interest to researchers in both the surviving university education departments.

They will see that the big surge to grant-maintained status came in the mid-1990s. The reduction of the prescribed curriculum, following Lord Dearing's last report, to no more than 50 per cent of the then school day, allowed secondary schools to specialise from age 11 onwards. Music schools, concentrating on the performing arts, are now as common as technology colleges: the European schools offer a second and third modern language in most big cities; and there are now science academies in every industrial conurbation.

Two later changes, though small, have been equally significant. The abolition of the education department's infamous "basic need" rule which preventing successful schools from expanding, and new schools from starting up, within two miles of an existing, under-subscribed school, triggered a wave of interest. New schools have been promoted by the churches, by voluntary organisations and by companies with a long-standing commitment to better education such as Ford, British Aerospace and Grand Met.

The second key change has been the opening up of the provision of capital to private investment. Training companies, further education colleges and commercial inter-

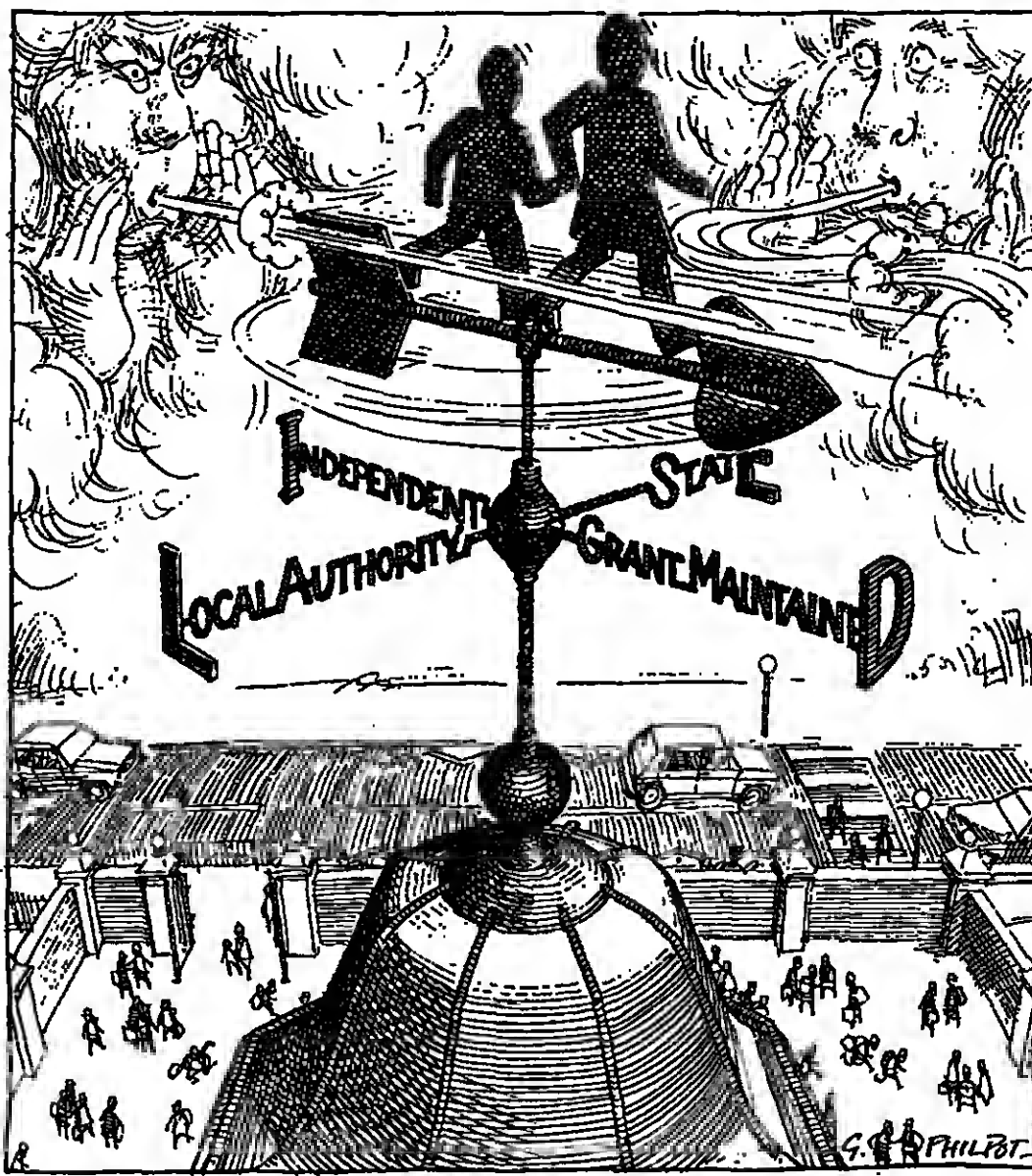
ests are all now in partnership with grant-maintained schools in the development of new facilities. Language laboratories, high technology equipment and sports halls, built, owned and managed by the private sector, are leased out to schools, often with "packages" of specialist teaching.

Consistently over-subscribed schools now receive allocations of capital, as well as current spending on a per pupil basis, allowing them to service their loans and to build up reserves for future development.

The agency has been wise enough to compensate through its "Sheffield" formula those schools whose former councils diverted education spending on to other prestige projects during the 1980s.

Among the success stories three particular types of school can be identified: those which were enthusiastic about grant-maintained status from the start; the church schools who spotted earlier than most the pent-up demand for a sounder moral basis for primary education — though, according to the agency, parents find the Catholic faith test "harder than ever"; and the new entrants, set up to compete for the custom of dissatisfied parents.

A fourth group deserves particular praise, says the agency. All but a handful of the "Association Schools" forcibly removed from council control because of serious concern over standards, are now



making "steady progress up the ladder".

The agency is predictably diplomatic about the least expected development of all — the sudden flood of applications for grant-maintained status, in the late 1990s, from independent schools. The agency's guiding principle of "contract, not control" appears to have been the key to what it calls "opting-in" by hundreds of independent schools happy to contract for specified numbers of state-funded pupils. According to the report only a handful of traditional boarding schools now remain outside the newly unified system.

Overall, the picture that emerges from the report is of an education system light years away from that which preceded the original 1988 Reform Act. The uniform council monopoly has given way to a multifarious range of schools catering for different abilities and interests.

The Funding Agency rightly rejoices in the local variety among schools up and down the country, and acknowledges the importance to the system of encouraging new promoters. Indeed, it is hard to recall now how much used to be prescribed centrally — that the length of the school day was once restricted by law, or, when schools now set their

own pay, that teachers' maximum hours were once laid down in statute. Who now remembers the national jargon of "key stages", "attainment targets" and "age-weighted units" that once blighted education?

Looking back over its first seven years, the agency notes with quiet pride the recent tribute of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, Sir George Walden, to "a vitality, rigour and self-confidence not seen before in English education in my lifetime".

●The author, a former education minister, is chairing a seminar today at the Social Market Foundation on new investment in state education.

Taking risks without a safety net

Robert Lloyd, head at Hendon School, explains how full autonomy has turned decline into success

ever, not because gms provides a pot of gold. Much has been made of the generous capital grants for some grant-maintained schools. Each year since 1989, Hendon has made a bid for a new building to replace its crumbling temporary classrooms, only at the fourth attempt was it successful. Nor is the recurrent grant particularly generous. It is subject to prolonged negotiation between the education department, the local authority and the school. The final figure differs very little from that which would have been obtained as a local authority school — plus,



Robert Lloyd has seen the benefits emerge as a result of Hendon's pioneering decision to opt out

self-belief, purpose and its direction.

But autonomy also brings responsibility. There is now no local authority to whom the buck can be passed or to act as a scapegoat. Nor, for that matter, is there a local authority for the staff to turn to redeploy if numbers in the school were to fall.

The whole school is aware that we have to do the best we possibly can for our pupils, not just for their sake but because it is the only basis on which the school itself will thrive and develop. This gives the sense of commitment and purpose which characterises so many grant-maintained schools and which is enabling them to lead the way forward for the education system.

Many will say that all this can be achieved through local management of schools operating within the local authority. Why go further and break the links with the authority? But local management is only half a loaf; gms is a whole cake. Any local authority, however benign, however much it delegates, will always be there, absorbing resources and taking the ultimate responsibility — preventing the school achieving real autonomy, responsibility and accountability.

There needs to be a recognition that the risk of failure is intrinsic to the driving force which enables grant-maintained schools to achieve success. Without it, self-government is meaningless. The education secretary and his department must have the confidence to risk schools failing — and the statutory mechanisms now exist to enable the pieces to be picked up. The alternative is to monitor and support (i.e. control) autonomy out of existence.

on the education and community services committee, and their heads are invited to attend meetings and conferences. The authority has also worked in partnership with opted-out schools to guarantee community facilities, such as dual use of sports halls when the contracts went out to tender.

Two issues in particular seem to clarify the changing relationship between the local authority and grant-maintained schools: the allocation of school places and the sale of the authority's services. Because of the funding arrangements for grant-maintained schools, Hillingdon stands to lose £2.2 million from its education budget this financial year. But it can recoup some of that money by selling its services to the schools it has lost, provided they are of good quality and at the right price. In 1993-94, £1 million worth of services have been bought in by local schools in Hillingdon. This year's Education Act, however, makes the future of such arrangements uncertain.

From the start, grant-maintained school headteachers recognised the complexity of admission arrangements in an urban community, and there was early agreement on term dates, information and publicity to parents. However, events did not go so smoothly in the winter of 1992/3 as all had hoped. Initially, some 400 children did not receive an offer of a secondary school place, although by this summer all children had been placed.

As a result, there were discussions on admissions with the Department for Education, and some of the authority's ideas were taken on board in the Education Act. The act identifies some key roles for local education authorities, including the removal of surplus places. But it does not make clear how the new partnership with the Funding Agency will work.

Who will chair the understandably volatile public meeting when there is a proposal to close the local school? Who will be the publicly accountable body when the decision is taken? Who will manage the complex and sensitive tasks associated with the closure of schools?

To work effectively, the authority must understand children's and parents' needs and advise them of their rights. In Hillingdon, for example, there has been no significant increase in exclusion of children from local authority or grant-maintained schools, because the schools co-operate with each other and also use the authority's behaviour management support team in a preventative way.

Clearly, the act heralds a new relationship between grant-maintained schools and the local authority. It opens the "secret garden" of education to people from business and the community, and that is to be welcomed; but there is still a need for a contribution from the professional.

The introduction of the Funding Agency will create a new infrastructure for the service. But its accountability to parents, the community and schools needs clear definition if it is to establish its credibility and not become merely a further level of distant bureaucracy.

●The author is the director of education and community services in the London borough of Hillingdon.

• Hear

Mkt cap (millions)	Company	Price \$	Wtd avg	Vol shs	Yld %	P/E
17.03	Mkt Intl Rese	64	+ 2	...	...	...
32.10	Monumental	53	+ 1	...	...	...
5.72	New London	49	...	...	...	...
141.81	Nth Sea Amer	27	...	1.0	4.6	8.3
10.10	Oil Search	33	+ 1	...	...	...
	Petrol	18 1/2	+ 1 1/2	...	...	...
68.00	Petrol	12 1/2	...	...	...	...
120.16	Premier	22	+ 1	...	8.1	...
28.60	Praxair	113	...	...	5.9	...
79.60	Praxair	365	- 3	...	4.4	...

40 Sentinel	52
60 Steel	684	+ 8%	21.9	3
06 Sunrise Eng Sv	173

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30	Gibbon Lyons	121	5.2	13.7
31	Gold Greenish	225	-30	8.3	4.8	16.1
39	Goodhead	21	...	0.5	2.8	...

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Ascot Flodge	54	- 4
Asda	115	4	54	3.3	12.1
Avonside	143	- 4	3.0	2.5	20.6

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Hammerson	369	1	+19%	10.0	3.1	40.4
-do- 'A'	369	1	+21%	10.0	3.4	37.3
Helical Bar	252	1	+4%	...	2.6	8.1

Country	Year	Age	Sex	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Body Fat (%)	VO ₂ max (ml/min)	VO ₂ max (ml/kg/min)
Hungary	85	20	M	178	75	15.6	3.5	19.6
Poland	85	20	M	175	70	15.7	3.5	20.0
United States	85	20	M	175	70	15.7	3.5	20.0
Poland	85	20	F	165	55	15.8	3.5	21.2
United States	85	20	F	165	55	15.8	3.5	21.2
United States	85	20	M	175	70	15.8	3.5	21.2
United States	85	20	F	165	55	15.8	3.5	21.2
United States	85	20	M	175	70	15.8	3.5	21.2
United States	85	20	F	165	55	15.8	3.5	21.2
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United States	85	20	F	165	55	15.8	3.5	21.2
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United States	85	20	F	165	55	15.8	3.5	21.2
United States	85	20	M	175	70	15.8	3.5	21.2

town Centre	128	+3	3.1	3.0	26.1
Trafford Park	77	+2	2.8	4.5	16
UK Land	39	-2			

Prison Square	8	...	...	...	...
Harper	210	...	10.1	5.5	26.0
Northford	210	...	7.5	4.3	16.0
Plantation	79	...	7.2	...	...
Wood Dale	79	...	7.2	...	...
John J. De.	79	+	1	...	...

SHOES, LEATHER

Armstrong	14	-	...	...	...
Medallion	180	...	1.1	0.6	...
Stromberg	335	...	15.0	4.9	5.2
Stromberg	335	...	15.0	4.9	5.2
Strong & Fisher	26	...	1.0	1.4	7.2
...	194	...	...	3.0	70.4
E. Talley	65	+	1	...	...

TEXTILES

Mid Text	514	...	12.6	3.1	36.5
Textiles (4)	94	...	3.3	1.6	...
...	103	...	2.8	1.5	...
Mohair	103	...	2.8	1.5	15.3
...	345	...	1.1	7.2	2.6
Textiles - Gs	345	...	1.1	7.2	2.6
Textiles - Gs	345	...	1.1	7.2	2.6

Person	193	+ 4	...	5.8	147
rumorad	47	+ 4
upela	112	7.5	127

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Hot Water	625	+31	...	4.6	3.6
Cold Water	661	+25	...	3.5	2.2

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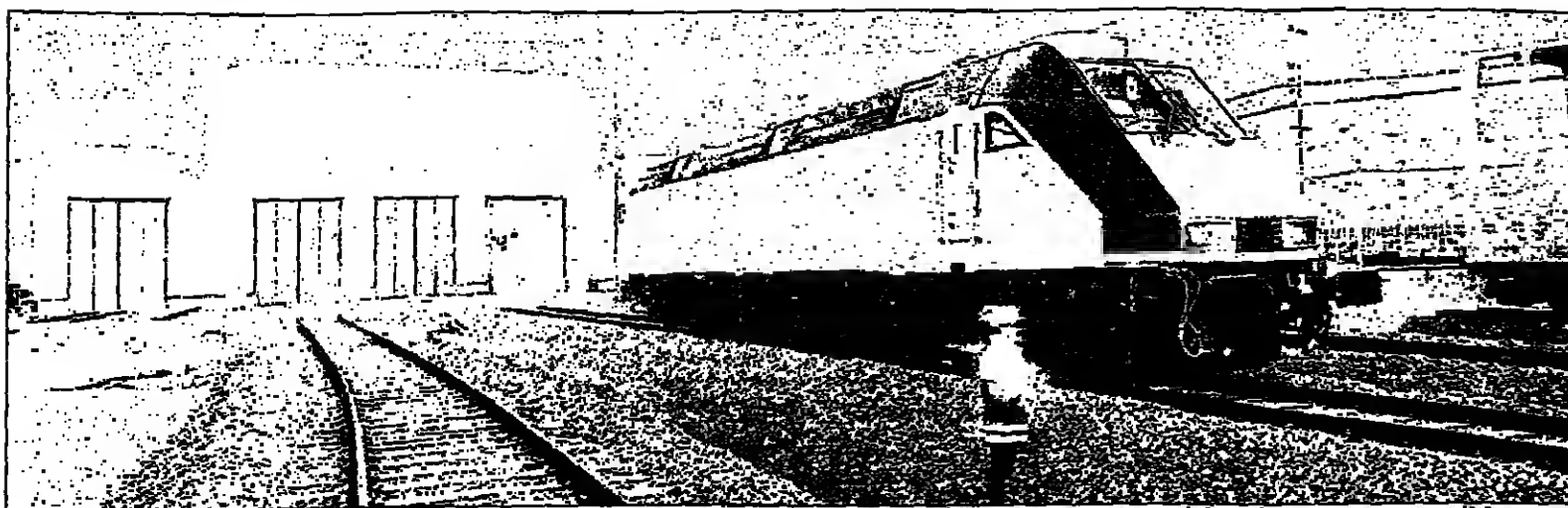
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David Hasbawn	901	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	902	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
Bob Ford	903	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	904	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	905	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	906	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	907	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	908	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	909	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	910	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	911	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	912	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	913	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	914	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	915	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	916	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	917	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	918	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	919	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	920	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	921	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	922	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	923	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	924	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	925	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
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John Hays	927	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	928	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	929	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	930	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	931	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	932	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	933	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
John Hays	934	2	11.8	5.5	81.6	19,016	Champion	345	11	72	24.5
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Unit	Cost	Unit	Cost	Unit	Cost	Unit	Cost
Unit 1	140	Unit 11	316	Unit 21	309	Unit 31	307
Unit 2	140	Unit 12	316	Unit 22	309	Unit 32	307
Unit 3	140	Unit 13	316	Unit 23	309	Unit 33	307
Unit 4	140	Unit 14	316	Unit 24	309	Unit 34	307
Unit 5	140	Unit 15	316	Unit 25	309	Unit 35	307
Unit 6	140	Unit 16	316	Unit 26	309	Unit 36	307
Unit 7	140	Unit 17	316	Unit 27	309	Unit 37	307
Unit 8	140	Unit 18	316	Unit 28	309	Unit 38	307
Unit 9	140	Unit 19	316	Unit 29	309	Unit 39	307
Unit 10	140	Unit 20	316	Unit 30	309	Unit 40	307
Unit 11	316	Unit 21	309	Unit 31	307	Unit 41	307
Unit 12	316	Unit 22	309	Unit 32	307	Unit 42	307
Unit 13	316	Unit 23	309	Unit 33	307	Unit 43	307
Unit 14	316	Unit 24	309	Unit 34	307	Unit 44	307
Unit 15	316	Unit 25	309	Unit 35	307	Unit 45	307
Unit 16	316	Unit 26	309	Unit 36	307	Unit 46	307
Unit 17	316	Unit 27	309	Unit 37	307	Unit 47	307
Unit 18	316	Unit 28	309	Unit 38	307	Unit 48	307
Unit 19	316	Unit 29	309	Unit 39	307	Unit 49	307
Unit 20	316	Unit 30	309	Unit 40	307	Unit 50	307
Unit 21	309	Unit 31	307	Unit 41	307	Unit 51	307
Unit 22	309	Unit 32	307	Unit 42	307	Unit 52	307
Unit 23	309	Unit 33	307	Unit 43	307	Unit 53	307
Unit 24	309	Unit 34	307	Unit 44	307	Unit 54	307
Unit 25	309	Unit 35	307	Unit 45	307	Unit 55	307
Unit 26	309	Unit 36	307	Unit 46	307	Unit 56	307
Unit 27	309	Unit 37	307	Unit 47	307	Unit 57	307
Unit 28	309	Unit 38	307	Unit 48	307	Unit 58	307
Unit 29	309	Unit 39	307	Unit 49	307	Unit 59	307
Unit 30	309	Unit 40	307	Unit 50	307	Unit 60	307
Unit 31	307	Unit 41	307	Unit 51	307	Unit 61	307
Unit 32	307	Unit 42	307	Unit 52	307	Unit 62	307
Unit 33	307	Unit 43	307	Unit 53	307	Unit 63	307
Unit 34	307	Unit 44	307	Unit 54	307	Unit 64	307
Unit 35	307	Unit 45	307	Unit 55	307	Unit 65	307
Unit 36	307	Unit 46	307	Unit 56	307	Unit 66	307
Unit 37	307	Unit 47	307	Unit 57	307	Unit 67	307
Unit 38	307	Unit 48	307	Unit 58	307	Unit 68	307
Unit 39	307	Unit 49	307	Unit 59	307	Unit 69	307
Unit 40	307	Unit 50	307	Unit 60	307	Unit 70	307
Unit 41	307	Unit 51	307	Unit 61	307	Unit 71	307
Unit 42	307	Unit 52	307	Unit 62	307	Unit 72	307
Unit 43	307	Unit 53	307	Unit 63	307	Unit 73	307
Unit 44	307	Unit 54	307	Unit 64	307	Unit 74	307
Unit 45	307	Unit 55	307	Unit 65	307	Unit 75	307
Unit 46	307	Unit 56	307	Unit 66	307	Unit 76	307
Unit 47	307	Unit 57	307	Unit 67	307	Unit 77	307
Unit 48	307	Unit 58	307	Unit 68	307	Unit 78	307
Unit 49	307	Unit 59	307				

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The Folkestone terminus, above, is almost ready; so is the French one. But late delivery of trains means commercial services cannot start until June

Channel tunnel could set the signals for a new age of rail

The official opening of the Channel tunnel next year will pose a diplomatic conundrum. Which head of state will first travel through the tunnel to join the other for the celebratory journey together through the tunnel? Surreal though the question seems, it fits the Channel tunnel perfectly. The seven-year project has been a nightmare tangle of delays, disputed liabilities and financial crises. This must surely become a textbook example of how not to develop public infrastructure.

The historic journey by President Mitterrand and Queen Elizabeth II, in whichever direction, is set to take place on Friday, May 6. That is a mere 11 months late. But even then, there will be no through passenger services, apart from a few "souvenir specials" laid on by British Rail for rail buffs. The train, which must service and repay the £6.5 billion debt of Eurotunnel, the project developer, will build up scheduled services gradually through 1994, as the power cars and rolling stock become available.

Eurotunnel and its partners are close to completing a revolutionary transport system. Many Britons will have their introduction to modern, high-speed train travel. BR privatisation permitting, we will discover the train as an alternative to traffic jams and airport delays, an alternative for passengers and freight alike.

Of course, the Channel tunnel may yet turn out to be a commercial irrelevance, like Concorde. But experience elsewhere in Europe suggests that high-speed trains both attract custom away from alternative modes of transport and change perceptions of rail as a means of travel.

The tunnel is practically complete and commissioning is under way. Engineers running the duplicate control centres at Folkestone and Coquelles, near Calais, are testing facilities in the triple 30-mile bores that run beneath the Channel waters separating the sites.

Ventilation fans, cooling systems, power supplies and signals are being checked and rechecked. At Coquelles, a swirl of rail tracks across the flat French countryside is bridged and equipped with the ramps and buildings that will ensure the steady loading and discharge of cars and lorries.

At Folkestone, a smaller loading and unloading site nuzzling into the steep slope of the North Downs, they are painting the white lines and planting the shrubs. Six hundred miles away in

When drive-on, drive-off passenger shuttles begin to run through the tunnel next summer, they will show Britons what modern train travel is, Ross Tieman says

the Czech Republic, where little-used rail tracks are available, two locomotives, driven by Eurotunnel crews, are undergoing endurance tests. On December 10, TransManche Link, the Anglo-French contractor, is scheduled to hand over the project to Eurotunnel, the owner and operator. Already, Eurotunnel has recruited almost 1,600 of the 2,700 staff required to bring the link into full operation.

As the new year gets into its stride, Eurotunnel will begin running dummy services, gradually upping the tempo and varying the mix of trains, until it is confident that the system can shift 20 trains an hour in each direction. In theory, the capacity, at 30 trains an hour each way, comfortably exceeds projected demand for shuttles and the ability of Network SouthEast to deliver rail traffic to the Folkestone terminus.

In early March, still two months ahead of the opening ceremony, the first commercial service is set to run through the tunnel. This will be a freight train, like as not, by Railfreight Distribution, the international freight arm set up by BR.

British Rail believes that rail is more cost effective than road haulage over distances of more than 400 miles. The ability to offer through services to continental cities is therefore expected

to triple the amount of freight carried on British tracks to six million tonnes a year. Almost £500 million is being invested in a network of nine regional freight trans-shipment centres and rolling stock to service them.

By the end of March, the first Eurotunnel shuttle trains, carrying articulated lorries between the two termini, will start to run. By May, in time for the summer tourist season, the passenger car drive-on, drive-off shuttles will swing into operation. The final element, and for public perceptions the most important, is the through passenger service, which will link London to Paris in three hours and to Brussels in 3½ hours, centre to centre.

Waterloo International, an elegant glass and steel adjunct to the south London terminus capable of accommodating the huge 20-car trains, was officially opened on May 17. On the other side of the Channel, the TGV Nord high-speed train line from Paris's Gare du Nord to Coquelles is complete and a scaled-down service north from Paris is operating.

Because of late deliveries of trains by GEC-Alsthom, the manufacturer, too few trainsets will be available to begin commercial services between Europe's capitals before mid-June. Only later will the schedules build up. Services

will share a common brand, Eurostar, but will be supplied by co-operating national companies, with European Passenger Services, a BR subsidiary, operating 11 trainsets, France's SNCF 16 and Belgian Railways, four. Each will carry 794 passengers at up to 185 mph, although speeds in Britain, where they will use existing track, will be much lower.

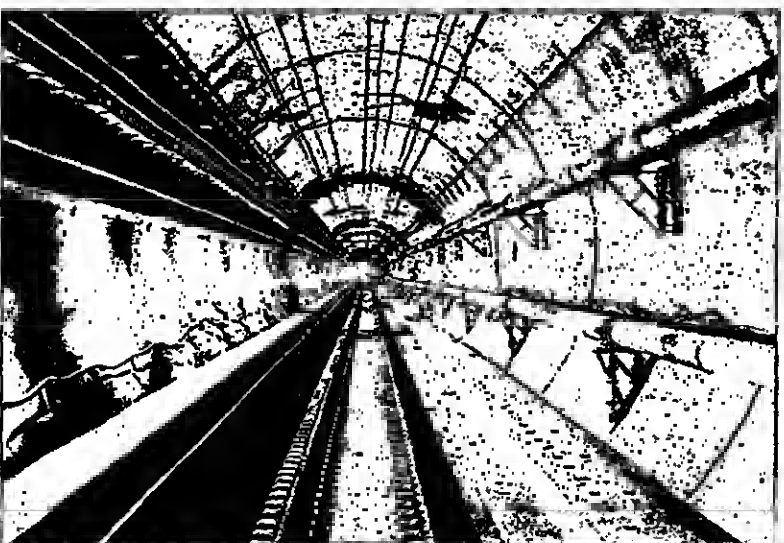
But progress is at last being made towards building a high-speed link through Kent and Essex to either Euston or St Pancras, in London. Union Railways, the private-sector grouping that will construct the £2.5 billion link, has almost succeeded in settling the route. Once Eurotunnel services begin and the level of demand becomes clear, the Union project developers will be better able to work out how to finance their link.

Union's directors will be well-placed to learn from Eurotunnel's mistakes. The cost of the Channel tunnel turns out to be £10 billion, more than twice the original estimate. By the end of the year, the company will have drawn down about £6.5 billion of its £7.28 billion loan facilities. Although Graham Corbett, the finance director, has been trying to swap his £5.8 billion of floating-rate debt into fixed-rate agreements now that interest rates have fallen, the company had been expected to need another £650 million to keep it going until projected break-even in 1996-7. A £300 million rights issue next year and a return to the banks for more cash seems inevitable.

Eurotunnel's interim announcement, expected today, should provide updated traffic forecasts, which will give investors a more accurate picture of the likely build up in cash-flow. By one bankers' estimate, Eurotunnel faces a £900 million deficit next year; he forecasts that that will shrink to £400 million in 1995 but that the company will not make a profit until 1999.

But the banks are in Jeremiah mood. Vehicle traffic growth across the Channel has been in double figures for each of the past three years, despite recession. The omens are good.

Once the tunnel is open, its success will depend on the ability of Eurotunnel and its partners to maintain an excellent service at a price that represents value for money. If they deliver, Britain can look forward to a private-sector rail transport revolution. If they do not, we bestride us all.



The tunnel will have the capacity to take up to 30 trains an hour each way

TEMPUS Security alert

IF enhanced scrip dividends are declared offside by the Chancellor in next month's Budget, the débâcle surrounding the profit warning from Automated Security (Holdings) on Friday is hardly a fitting epitaph to what was originally a smart idea from BZW.

ASH, which had already declared a scrip dividend alternative, had hoped to tell the market about its poor trading and provisions in its third quarter results next week but was forced into an earlier announcement when word leaked out and the shares started to fall. Then the market sank into total confusion when mistyping enlarged the size of discontinued losses from £2 million to £32 million.

Now ASH is faced with the unenviable choice of scrapping the enhanced scrip dividend, which would create an administrative nightmare since many of the new shares have been placed with institutions, or enduring lasting acrimony from institutions that

feel they have been cheated. Aside from the farce, two questions remain. First, should ASH really have allowed the strike price of the enhanced scrip to have been fixed only days before it was due to announce bad news? Second, when BZW advised the group to adjust or cancel the enhanced scrip after its announcement, in whose interest was it acting? BZW seems to have been caught between its role as ASH's broker and its task of placing the enhanced scrip shares.

The main beneficiaries of any alteration of the scrip terms are the institutions that bought the stock last week, who may otherwise hold a lasting, albeit unjustified, grudge against BZW for selling it to them. In a rights issue or placing, ASH would have had to undergo a rigorous financial examination to ensure that such a shock could not occur. This affair has unmasked the real peril of these rolling rights issues.

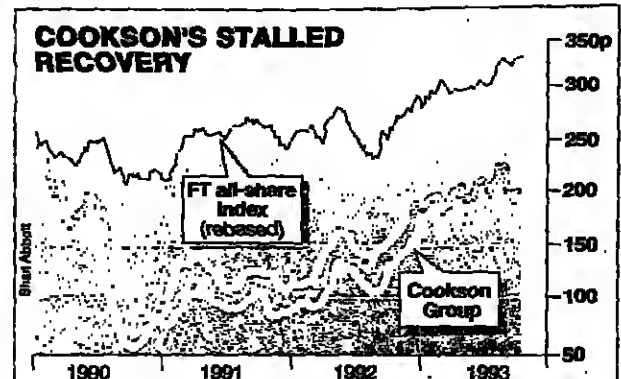
Cookson

SUGGESTIONS that Cookson and Johnson Matthey have been talking about combining their precious metals businesses provided a little stimulus last week for Cookson's shares, which have been one of the worst performers among the top 200 companies since the rights issue in March.

Whatever the truth in the speculation, there is little doubt that Cookson will continue to announce a steady stream of deals as it rationalises its diverse interests. The group's problem is the cash hunger of many of its businesses. Capital spending is running at 1.6 times depreciation, and BZW, the broker, estimates that Cookson needs an operating margin of 9.1 per cent to achieve a positive cash flow. Many of the smaller businesses in

Cookson's engineered products and plastics divisions do not look up to that. Plastic additives, plastic mouldings and castings all appear candidates for disposal. That would leave Cookson more focused on its world-leading ceramics and electronic circuitry products, particularly since low gearing allows the group to build on modest

acquisitions. Reorganisation benefits will be enhanced by refinancing the costly preference share issue in 1994. This should add £3.7 million to annual net profits. Together, these factors should boost profits in the next three years, so the shares look reasonable value whether or not Cookson finds common ground with JM.



Albert Fisher

THIS Wednesday, Albert Fisher launches the pathfinder prospectus for Charles Sidney, the Mercedes dealership which is emerging with an expected price tag of £20 million. In selling investors something they already own, Fisher is treading an increasingly fashionable path. Only last week, J Bibby announced a demerger.

Sidney's flotation implies that Fisher could not sell the business privately at the right price or on the right terms. Dealerships are hard to sell since carmakers hold an effective veto by threatening to withdraw their franchise. But Fisher's decision to float the business to raise capital looks slightly greedy. Its debts have already fallen to £40 million so the float will leave the group almost unencumbered. While this will help it make acquisitions in its core food processing business, it was hardly necessary. Fisher would have earned more plaudits if, copying Williams Holdings' demerger of its Pendragon car

dealership four years ago, it had chosen to distribute Sidney's share capital to its existing shareholders, who own it after all.

British Syphon

BRITISH Syphon shareholders may wonder what sort of animal their company will become after the takeover by Graystone. Once a food group called Parmigian, Graystone is transforming into an engineering mini-conglomerate after buying three companies from Prospect Industries in November, followed by the purchase of Cableform from FKI last May.

The merger with Syphon adds engineering businesses with trading profits of some £3.5 million to the Cableform business, which makes about £1.3 million. Graystone must sell the rump of the Parmigian companies, which include sausage casings and country hotels. The market took a jaundiced view of Graystone's bid by marking Syphon's shares down 12p to 83p despite the inclusion of 76p of cash in the offer. Such lack of

enthusiasm might stem from worries about the prodigious amount of paper Graystone has been generating. It is issuing 179 million shares as part of the takeover and linked rights issue, which follows a 14 for 3 cash call in May. To keep the ball rolling, Graystone must now back its equity with earnings growth.

Greycoat

GREYCOAT's preference share holders had their moment of triumph over ungenerous would-be rescuer Postel on Friday. Over the weekend, a few may have wished they had lost the vote.

Valuing properties is a subjective business and it is conceivable that the Greycoat management, which wanted a speedy resolution to its problems, may have undercooked the value of the portfolio to push through the Postel deal. But the proof of any valuation is in the price a buyer will pay. The preference shareholders must find a more generous bidder if they are not prepared to fund a rescue themselves.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Wizard of Oz

REMEMBER Russell Coward? The one-time Bondi beach life-guard who wreaked havoc among various United Kingdom companies during the late eighties - it all ended when his Westmex investment group went bust in 1990 - has been touted for business in the Australian press. "I'm leamer and hungrier and have more ideas than ever," says Coward, 39, in an advertisement in *The Australian Financial Review*. Declared bankrupt two years ago, he says he is trying to find the best opportunity for his "skills, experience and self motivation" once he emerges from bankruptcy in three months' time. Whether any UK investors will rush to his aid is questionable. His Charterhall vehicle snapped up Corah, the textiles firm, and Tandem, the shoe chain, among others, before going to the wall in 1990. Earlier, he won his spurs as chief executive - before the age of 30 - of Sir Ron Brierley's Industrial Energy group, and is still regarded by many as a wunderkind. "He's very intelligent and presentable and much more likeable than Bond and the other guys," says one observer in the Square Mile. "He just took the whizz-kid thing a bit too far."

Top Marks

MARKS and Spencer shareholders can expect great things from one of the group's less obvious profit centres - the Boulevard Hausmann branch in Paris. *L'Evenement*,

awarded four gastronomic stars to the 1,000 sq m outlet, coming up for its twentieth anniversary in 1995, which the magazine bills as the image par excellence of British comfort and refinement. So much so that Parisians are apparently willing to pay up to four times as much for their Marks specialities as customers in Britain. Crumpets are priced at £13.90 (£1.62) for six against just 40p for eight in Britain. The extra fresh Assam-Kenya blend of tea sells at £25 for 250g (£2.91) compared with £1.49 here. But it was the ready-cooked meals from around the world that earned Marks its *prix d'excellent* from *L'Evenement*. These quick and exotic menus start at £79 (£9.20) for two - more than three-and-a-half times the price in Britain.

Dynamic duo

PETER Wills and Richard Lawson, two of the City's senior hands, have become the first fellows of the Securities



Institute, the 8,500 member-strong body for those who work in the Square Mile. Wills, the former chairman of Sheppards Moneybroking, and Lawson, who once ran Greenwell Montagu Stockbrokers and the Securities and Futures Authority, both have another claim to fame - they are former deputy chairmen of the Stock Exchange.

Company car

ALEXANDER Trotman, the British-born chairman-elect of American car giant Ford Motors, who will be responsible for selling three million US vehicles a year, does not personally own a car and cannot remember the last time that he bought one. Trotman, 60, says the last vehicle he actually remembers buying is a motorcycle - and that was Japanese. Industry sources say that this is a classic example of American car executives being out of touch with their customers - and hence never having to haggle with dealers, insurance agents or registration officials, nor having to confront service managers and pay repair bills which often require to be taken with a sedative. The tradition in the motor city of Detroit, it appears, is for white-collar executives to enter car-borrowing programmes, which relieves them of the tiresome problems faced by those who buy their company's cars.

Write stuff

WHILE all attention in the world of publishing (and elsewhere) is centred on those memoirs, word reaches me of another autumn book launch

Whitehall, the City, local government and Westminster. Sir John Banham, ex-head of the Confederation of British Industry, and now the chairman of several quoted companies, is bringing out a book which lays out in detail what he considers is wrong with the United Kingdom, what should be done to improve matters and who should do it. In typical Banham fashion, not a punch is pulled and his opinions could upset a few die-hard traditionalists throughout the land.

Early closing

JAPAN is finally taking steps to reduce incidences of *karoshi* - or death by overwork. From now on, anyone caught in the office after 6pm on Wednesdays will be promptly shown the door. On other days, 8pm will be the cut-off. The action was spurred by a survey which found that 80 per cent of employees could finish work and leave their offices by the official closing time of 5.30pm, thus eliminating the need for expensive overtime pay.

Being prepared

NOW this is what I call forward planning. Despite the "ring of steel" around the Square Mile, while Bruce & Brown, a property firm based in London's West End, has rigged up an office on the Farringdon Road to be instantly available for employers in the event of another devastating bomb attack. Telephone and fax lines are installed and ready for use.

Curing the economic hangover

From J. Shackles
Sir, In his article of November 20, 1991, Anatole Kaletsky anticipated early UK economic recovery. Two years on, with recovery still tentative, he is right to recommend, in his article of October 7, 1993, further substantial interest rate cuts. Strong economic recovery is the only way to eradicate the deficit. (Tax increases and expenditure cuts are only token gestures). Unfortunately, however, lower interest rates will not be the catalyst for recovery. US rates have been low for two years and economic revival remains

uninspired.) Recovery from the consumption excesses of the 1980s binge, like recovery from the more common hangover, will only come with time. Raw eggs, aspirin and subdued lighting in the form of lower interest rates, lower inflation and lower costs might ease the pain, but only time (ie the gradual return of borrower/lender confidence) will cure. (My letter of November 21, 1991 refers.) Yours faithfully, J. SHACKLES, 2 Warren Close, Rayleigh, Essex.

Five-day settlement could hit shareholders

From Mr David J. Montier
Sir, While moves towards a ten-day settlement period for Stock Exchange transactions may be workable for private investors, any further proposals to reduce that to a five-day period by 1995 should be accompanied by strong pressure on banks to speed up their cheque clearance procedures. If this does not happen, small shareholders will not be able to send cheques to their

brokers with any assurance that they will receive cleared funds within five days to allow settlement to be made. Leaving relatively small sums of money on deposit with the broker or holding shares through a nominee name are not satisfactory answers to the problem. Yours faithfully, DAVID J. MONTIER, Eybrook, Oldfield Road, Bickley, Bromley, Kent.

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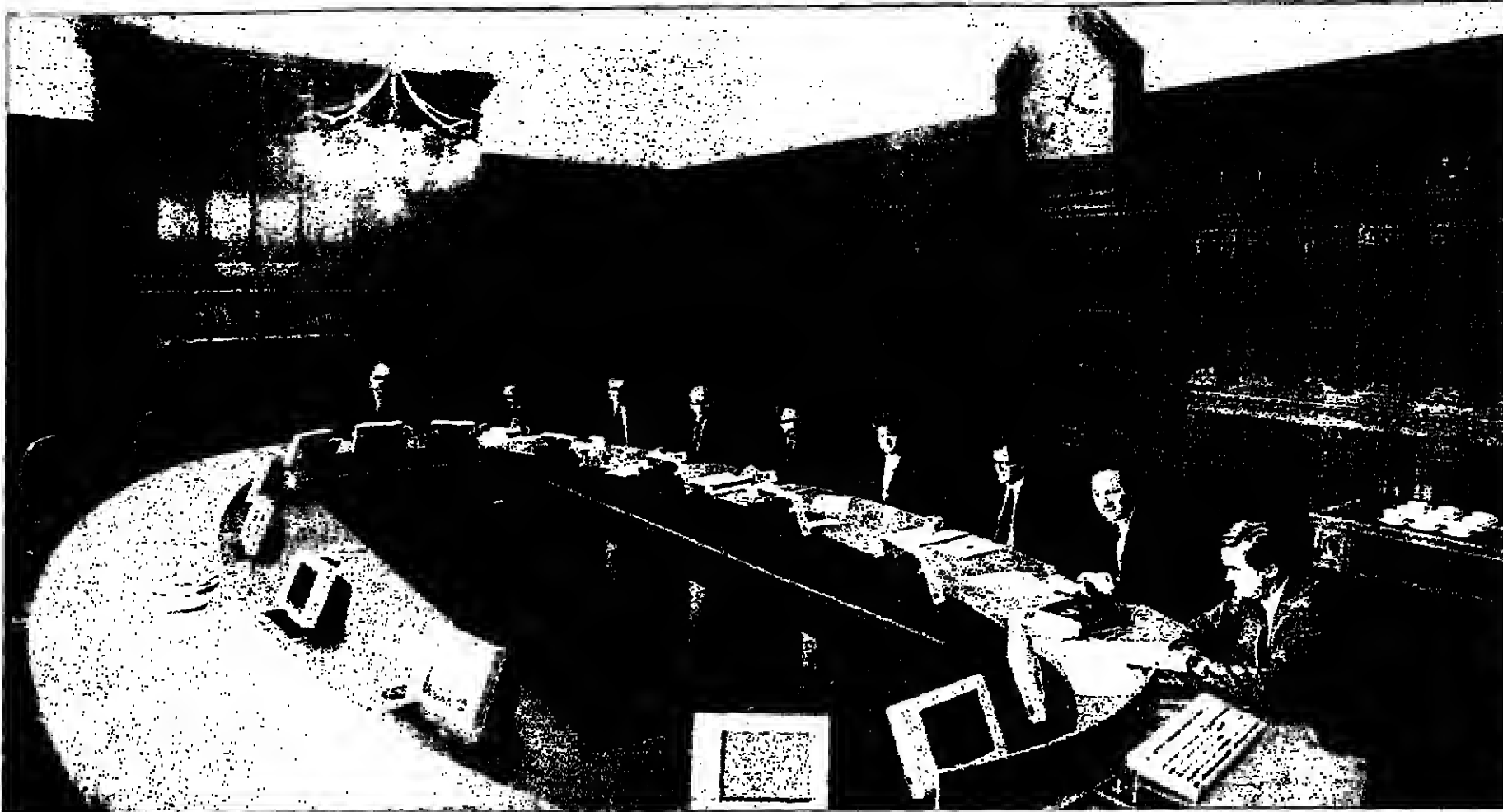
PROSPECTS FOR
BODY SHOP ARE
LOOKING BETTER

BUSINESS

MONDAY OCTOBER 11 1993

CITY DIARY 34
THE HEAD OF FORD
IS A MAN
WITHOUT A CAR

BUSINESS EDITOR ROBERT BALLANTYNE



The Man from the Pru has reoccupied his Holborn Bars offices, which have had five years' refurbishment. The offices, finished in 1879, are now a blend of Victorian gothic and advanced office equipment

Alliance & Leicester to launch new bank

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ALLIANCE & Leicester, Britain's fourth-biggest building society, is to set up a new bank, based on its Girobank customers. The society plans to move the 1.5 million Girobank current account customers into the new bank, to extend Girobank's telephone banking service and to launch a series of new accounts. It hopes to poach customers from other clearing banks.

Approval for the change, planned for next spring, will be needed from the Bank of England and the Building Societies Commission. The new bank is, as yet, unnamed, but Alliance & Leicester is thought likely to want "Alliance" to be part of the name.

The plans should dispel rumours that Alliance & Leicester is being targeted for takeover by Lloyds Bank, which is known to have been on the lookout for an acquisition or merger since its hostile bid for Midland Bank failed last year. Alliance & Leicester itself is believed to be keen to take over a smaller building society, to increase its presence in the north of England.

It acquired Girobank in 1990 as part of the government's privatisation programme. The two entities have personal customers in common but are legally separate. If Girobank customers want

mortgages, these are offered by Alliance & Leicester; similarly, Alliance & Leicester does not offer current accounts.

Girobank's customers are able to use the Telecare telephone banking service, which is open 12 hours a day during the week and from 8am to 2pm on Saturdays; it handles more than 100,000 telephone enquiries a week. After Christmas, ahead of the new bank's launch, there will be a 24-hour service.

The extended telephone service will compete more effectively with Midland's First Direct and will supplement a

postal banking service. Girobank's personal customers' current accounts are supported by the Link automatic teller machine network and cash transactions can be conducted over Post Office counters. When the new bank is launched, customers will also be able to use Alliance & Leicester branches.

Alliance & Leicester has decided the Girobank name will continue to be used for the wholesale money clearing service, which is used by retailers to deposit their daily takings. In its 1992 annual report, Girobank said the service was

used by 70 per cent of top retailers. It charges fees for processing cash, cheques and credit card vouchers and then sells the cash to the Post Office and to high street banks.

Alliance & Leicester has yet to decide whether to integrate its treasury operation with Girobank's. At present, they must be run separately. The society will also consider whether to rebuild its corporate loan book, which has been run down since the takeover because, under building society rules, loans can be made only against security.

MGN pensioners claim £200m

BY OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR



Maxwell: looted fund

LAWYERS acting for the Mirror Group Newspapers pension fund have set out the claim by pensioners against three City firms that acted for MGN during the looting of the fund by Robert Maxwell.

In the High Court's Chancery Division last week, Travers Smith Braithwaite, the fund's solicitors, lodged £200 million claims against Invesco, the fund manager, and the brokers Capel-Cure Myers and Lehman Brothers. But the claims are not cumulative, contrary to weekend

reports that the amount sought had been trebled to £600 million. The pensioners had initially asked for £90 million from Capel-Cure and Lehman; the claim on Invesco has not been quantified.

Although a £200 million claim had been expected, the amount Invesco could be liable for, if it loses, might unsettle the company's share price this week and force an announcement through the Stock Exchange.

Rumours force Ladbroke answers

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SHARES in Ladbroke Group, the hotels and bookmaking combine, will come under additional pressure today as the group is forced to produce a statement about further allegations in the weekend press about its debts.

Ladbroke last month succeeded in obtaining an injunction against the Mail on Sunday preventing the publication of what the company described as "certain scurrilous rumours" in the City about its relationship with its bankers and the circumstances surrounding the decision by Cyril Stein, the chairman, to retire later this year.

However, further disclosures this weekend have not been formally denied by Ladbroke, although they were described as "misleading and misconceived". The rumours suggest that, contrary to earlier assurances from the group, a loan from one of the banks, the Dutch ABN-AMRO, is secured on about £100 million of assets.

Ladbroke has always claimed that almost none of its £1.3 billion of debt was secured on specific assets. A spokesman from the company said last night: "A statement correcting the misleading and misconceived article... will be issued to the Stock Exchange at 7.30 tomorrow morning." Until then, he would give no further details.

It is thought the ABN-AMRO secured debt has the purpose of minimising tax payable by Ladbroke and was taken out in the summer. Previous statements that little of the group's debt was secured referred to the position at the end of the 1992 financial year, it is being suggested. The rumours and the injunction have already put Ladbroke shares under pressure. They ended last week at 178p, against a high of 222½p earlier this year.

Blow to Boots in Sainsbury project

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

BOOTS, the retail to drugs group, has had applications for pharmaceutical licences in two of its seven pilot in-store chemists in Sainsbury's supermarkets turned down. This could put the in-store venture in jeopardy, according to some industry experts.

The Severn and Poole outlets, which opened in July under a trial programme, have been refused licences by the Family Health Service Association, the body responsible for screening applications. Boots has been given a licence for its Hemel Hempstead store, and has yet to make applications for the remaining four outlets.

A company spokesman said: "We would always like to be able to provide a prescription service, but this does not mean the pilot stores will not work, nor will it deter us from opening other outlets."

Although Boots cannot service NHS prescriptions without a licence, it can still sell over-the-counter drugs. However, the licence rejections have caused concern to some analysts, who fear that it may have an impact on profitability of the in-store pharmacies. One retail analyst said: "The pharmaceutical licence is a crucial part of the mix. If that is not there, then you are left with a lot of product overlap. It does rather take the gloss off the scheme."

Richard Hyman, of Verdict, the retail consultancy, said: "I think it is a blow. Being able to dispense prescriptions draws a large number of people into the store. There is a big convenience factor and it establishes real authority."

The squeeze on the number of licences comes on top of recent changes in the way chemists are paid to dispense NHS prescriptions, which Verdict believes will wipe £50 million of profits from the industry. The health department wants to rein back NHS receipt income, which increased by 11.5 per cent to £3.7 billion last year.

Executive pay 'hides true value'

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANY directors' total pay packages can be worth more than 200 per cent of the sum declared in their firms' annual reports, a survey suggests today.

It believes the way companies meet their legal requirement to declare directors' salaries in their annual reports can be both inaccurate and misleading. Bacon and Woodrow, the actuary and consultant, suggests that executives' total pay package, including bonuses, pension promises and the use of company cars and accommodation, can often exceed 200 per cent of declared salary, though the average full package is about 170 per cent.

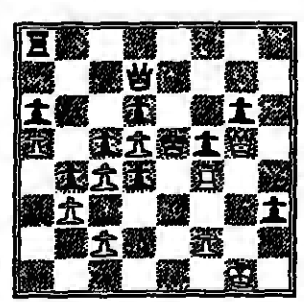
Looking at a sample of 1,434 directors in 222 UK companies, the survey says that the average basic salary for chief executives in July was £158,000, suggesting that the chief executives' total package could be as high as £316,000.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Kasparov - Short, Times World Championship, game 1. The black king is horribly exposed in the middle of the board. Can you spot the cleanest kill for White?

Watch out for part six of the history of the world championship in next Saturday's magazine, when we see Smyslov in action. Tomorrow sees the 16th game of the Kasparov - Short match at the Savoy Theatre. For tickets, ring First Call on 071 497 9977.



Solution, page 33

Championship Chess, page 7

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TRUCKLING
a. Long distance driving
b. An inferior
c. Type of small bed

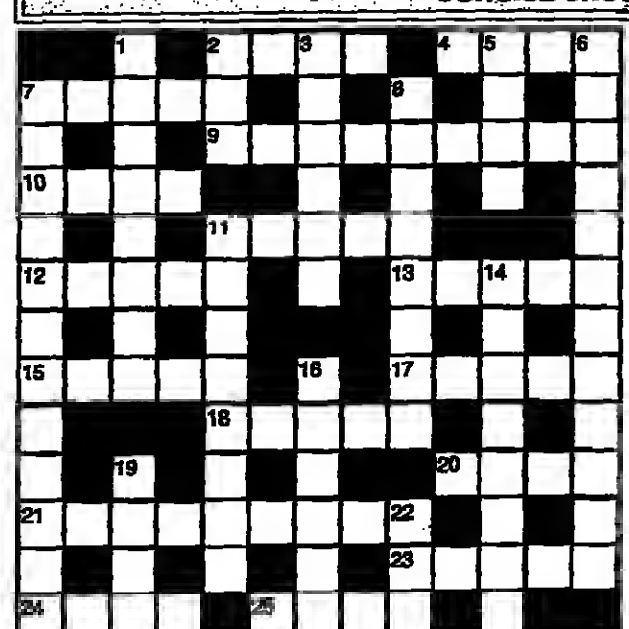
DEBILE
a. To clear one's throat
b. Weak
c. A disgusting foot condition

DIMBER
a. Supple and limber
b. Pretty
c. A wisecrack or fool
DANDY-ROLLER
a. A trouser press
b. An expensive car
c. A paper press

Answers on page 33

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times Concise Crosswords - Books 1 & 2 £5.25 each, Books 3 & 4 £4.25 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords - Book 1 £4.99, Book 2 £5.99, Concise Book 1 £3.99, The Times Crosswords - Books 1, 7, 14, 15 & 16 £4.25 each, Books 2 to 13 £3.75 each, The Sunday Times Crosswords - Books 1 to 10 £4.74 each except Books 5, 9 and 11 £4.25 each, Concise Books 1 & 2 £4.25 each. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to Alcon Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852-4575 (24 hrs).

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3222



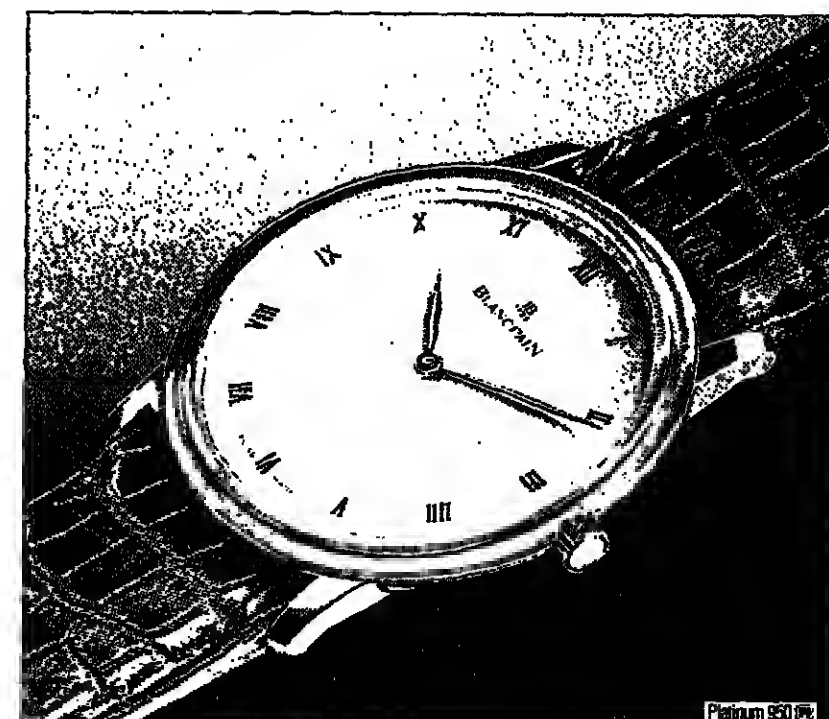
- ACROSS**
2 Spacious (4)
4 Last Persian ruler (4)
7 Over length of (5)
9 Listen in secretly (9)
10 Route (4)
11 Rush (5)
12 Not appropriate (5)
13 Temporarily arrange (3,2)
15 Bisection (5)
17 Control mechanism (5)
18 Broad, deep (5)
20 Not rich (4)
21 Resilience (9)
23 Friendly (5)
- DOWN**
24 Otherwise (4)
25 Lots (4)
DOWN
1 Underhand baseball (8)
2 Period (3)
3 Go Back (6)
5 Difficult (4)
6 Cheer of joy (3,3,6)
7 Roman arena (12)
8 Printing star (8)
11 Elastic (8)
14 Roof gutter figure (8)
16 Picture house (6)
19 Agitation (4)
22 Secret agent (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3221

ACROSS: 1 Follicle 5 Thud 9 Upright 10 Eases 11 Pace
12 Not fair 14 Choosy 16 Frieze 19 Nodules 21 Sage
24 Panic 25 Ill will 26 Sulk 27 Indebted

DOWN: 1 Foul 2 Larva 3 Ingress 4 Latent 6 Hostage
7 Deserted 8 Feet 13 Schnapps 15 Ordinal 17 Resolve
18 Aversion 20 Luck 22 Climb 23 Clad

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5352 (+0.0292)
German mark
2.4612 (+0.0127)
Exchange index
80.9 (+0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2359.1 (+46.5)
FT-SE 100
3108.6 (+69.3)
New York Dow Jones
3584.74 (+3.63)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
20378.64 (+95.51)

سكرا من الامم